



all workers \* all industries

# Industrial Worker



★ Education

★ Organization

★ Emancipation

December 1993

Newspaper of the Industrial Workers of the World

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big Bad World

SPOT-THE-DIFFERENCE



ANSWER:

10 YEARS OF IMF STRUCTURAL ADJUSTMENT POLICY

## Multiple Chemical Sensitivity (MCS)-- Not Just "In Your Head"!

by Howard Olson

Multiple Chemical Sensitivity -- MCS -- is a medical problem triggered by exposure to chemicals, often indoors at work or even home<sup>1</sup>. The controversy over MCS largely stems from allegedly "scientific" claims that MCS is psychological or "in your head."

This allows workers to be ridiculed and harassed by employers when they develop MCS<sup>1</sup>. As we shall see the alleged "psychological" origins of MCS are more logically couched in terms of physiological effects.

But first, some background is necessary. The National Academy of Sciences (USA) has estimated that 15% of the population has been sensitized to chemicals at work or in the home<sup>1</sup>. The exact number of people with MCS is not known but clearly the occurrence of chemical sensitivity is on the rise<sup>1</sup>.

Industrial workers, primarily men in the age group 20-65 as well as office workers are commonly victims of MCS.

MCS is a two-stage illness. INDUCTION, the first step, involves either acute high level exposure or long term chronic exposure to a variety of chemicals including pesticides, solvents and formaldehyde. TRIGGERING, the second step, is caused by RE-exposure at even lower levels of chemicals. This is typical of physiological immune reactions rather than mere psychological trauma. Tobacco smoke, perfumes, leather, copy machine solvents, and volatiles from glue are typical triggers.

The diversity of chemicals causing MCS suggests a broad physiological mechanism. But three psychological mechanisms have been offered. All of these can be explained better physiologically.

BEHAVIORAL CONDITIONING TO ODORS, in which the patient responds to a secondary exposure with MCS symptoms, can be better explained in terms of the Limbic System of the brain. The Limbic System is an evolu-

tionary remnant of the Rhinencephalon or "smell brain." Odors of chemicals could thus be activating MCS through organic neurological effects.

SOMATIZATION is allegedly purely psychological because no physical causes can be suggested. This entirely ignores the mechanism of stress which could be induced by strange odors of synthetic chemicals<sup>2</sup>. The immune effects of inhaling or otherwise ingesting novel chemicals could activate the Major Histocompatibility Complex (MHC). The MHC is the part of the immune system which recognizes self or non-self<sup>2</sup> and the immune system thus develops sensitivity to the chemical(s).

EMOTIONAL DISORDERS are also alleged to cause MCS. But the Limbic system is the emotional center of the brain and toxic effects could produce the emotional symptoms rather than the reverse, including development of sensitivity<sup>3</sup>. Nerve cells in particular are highly sensitive to toxins.<sup>4,5</sup>

Thus it is essential that MCS patients NOT be dismissed as psychological misfits. The "psychological" explanation amounts to little more than quackery because it obviously serves the interests of employers to ignore MCS. Victims of MCS are very vulnerable to such charlatanism and should not be exposed to pseudo-scientific abuse by employers or co-workers.

### REFERENCES

1. Multiple Chemical Sensitivities (MCS) at Work: A Training Workbook for Working People (Labor Institute NYC, 1992)
2. Biochemistry of Taste and Olfaction, RH CAGAN & MR KANE (1981)
3. Psychoneuroimmunology (2nd Ed) R. Ader et al (1991)
4. Essentials of Pharmacology, PM Conn et al (1989)
5. A Primer of Environmental Toxicology, RP Smith (1992)



## Work at Holiday Inn No Holiday

Hotel Employees Restaurant Employees Union (HERE) Local 50 has broadened its campaign in California's Contra Costa County, to encompass workers in the hotel/motel industry (see *IW Oct.93*). Recently the Holiday Inn (Walnut Creek) has been the focus of an intense organizing effort.

Unlike the Holiday Inn in Concord, (which hosted the Western Labor Heritage Festival-- see *IWs March/Apr.93*), the one in Walnut Creek is NOT organized, so workers there are subjected to all of the vicissitudes and inequities of working (SLAVING) in a non-Union workplace: lousy working conditions and wages so low that many of workers MUST have 2 jobs just to keep their heads above water. And this while working for a hotel which grossed over \$300,000 in profits last year alone!

In Dec.92, Holiday Inn/WC Workers decided they'd had enough, and voted Union. Holiday Inn has refused to negotiate and the struggle has grown into a boycott and weekly picket actions. This refusal to negotiate has led to speculation regarding Commonwealth Equity Trust, the owner of the hotel, which filed Chapter 11 bankruptcy back in August. The company, which has Holiday Inns in Sacramento, Chico, and Redding, lost \$35.3 million in fiscal year 1991, and \$566.7 million in fiscal '92. These figures indicate that this company does NOT know what it's doing, and workers end up bearing the full weight of the company's ineptitude.

The campaign has become so strenuous that in past weeks, management has attempted to bully workers and supporters by calling the local gendarmes during the weekly picket actions. Once the "forces of Law & Order" show up, they quote Walnut Creek's Noise Ordinance in an attempt to discourage singing and chanting on the line.

On 21 Oct. around 7:00 AM, about 30 folks showed up for a morning action wearing gags and maintained silence while carrying signs. However, this did NOT prevent noise from passersby honking horns in support of the pickets.

The ordinance regarding "excessive

## Child Labor

The number of children working in the USA has risen dramatically over the past 10 years, according to the Oct.93 *Scientific American*. "About five million teenagers work (legally) in the U.S.... The number of youths working clandestinely has been estimated to be as high as 676,000."

A 1988 study by the New York State Dept. of Labor found half the teenage workers they questioned had been injured on the job or experienced a violation of wage (working for less than the minimum wage) or hour (overtime or night work) regulations. No data is gathered on injuries to child workers, but the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health determined that more than 130 U.S. children died on the job in 1990. New York state worker's compensation statistics indicate that 31 children died between 1980 and 1987, and about 4,000 suffered permanently disabling injuries.

A study by the Massachusetts Dept. of Public Health found that of 17-year-olds whose location of injury was recorded when treated in emergency rooms, 26% were there because of work-related injuries. And the *American Journal of Public Health* reports 300 children aged 19 and under are killed every year in farm accidents.

Internationally, the ILO reports that some 200 million children under the age of 15 years work, and that the numbers are rising in poverty-stricken "Third World" countries.

"noise" is rather hazy, stating that "...yelling, shouting, hooting(?), whistling, or singing(!) on a public place at any time or place..." is VERBOTEN. This covers one hell of a lot of ground. (One doesn't hear of too many people being cited for "excessive noise" from auto stereos, singing Christmas carols, or audibly breaking wind during a City Council session, but who knows what the future holds?)

During the action 6 pickets, including Union trustee Jim Dupont and Alicia Sanchez, Lead Organizer, went into the lobby to get management to sign the contract. Within minutes, first one, then another, a total of 8 cops showed up and arrested the 6 workers. They were taken to HQ, booked and released (OR'ed), charged with trespassing.

On the 26th, some of those arrested showed up, along with a verbal contingent of supporters, at a City Council meeting, where singing and chanting took place. Once again, the gendarmes showed up, although in fewer numbers, and this time there were no arrests. They simply asked us to move away from the front door.

It is apparent that, as in the "Teens" and "Twenties", the struggle for free speech continues in the "Nineties". On the wall above the typewriter, I have an IWW calendar. Looking through it month by month, I've lost count of the dates in history when there were free speech fights going on, many carried out by the IWW. Many of these were during times of extreme repression when jingoism was running hot and strong in the national bloodstream. Those were times when the local Chambers of Commerce thought nothing of purchasing machine guns and freely arming "joe citizens" in order to protect their communities, (i.e. business interests), from the "Red Menace," which, in reality, was people fighting for BASIC RIGHTS; the right to dissent; the right to a living wage; the right to decent health care; the right of free speech and expression; the right to be themselves. The fight goes on.-Dave Collins X340864





# Letters

## Fellow Workers

With the mass media the way it is, important bits of news frequently fail to make the journey across the Atlantic Ocean. Did many from America hear the full details of the riots Oct.16-17? British police confronted 25,000 Anti-Nazi League marchers who were attempting to march on the British Nazi Party headquarters and close it down. In the scuffle 14 policemen were injured and a fair few arrests made. Anyway, I digress. What I really want to know is what is happening with the UMW strike at the moment? If anyone has any info that they could post or mail to me at: (walshb@unix1.tcd.ie) that'd be nice... just thinking of 87 when Billy Bragg went on tour with the UMW... it worked then (more or less).

USSR/  
USA/  
US/  
U/  
/

"With our brothers and our sisters, in many far-off lands, There is Power in a Union"

--B.W., Dublin

Hello,

I just came across your internet address in a posting on the H-Labor listserv. I'm very pleased to find you on the internet. I'm interested in Syndicalism and hope you might be able to help me gain more information. Any info would be appreciated.

Torrey W. Holmes  
Lesley College Library  
Cambridge, MA  
LES\_TWH@flo.org

Dear Friends,

My name is Norman Goodloe, I am a prisoner in Indiana serving a 30 year sentence. I have served 12 years inside and have 3 years left to complete. I'm without family or friends at this time.

I would be more than happy to share friendly correspondence in letters with ladies or gentlemen who would share care and inspiration in letters with me. Everyone is very welcome to write to me. I'll answer all with respect. Thank you very much for your time, help, and consideration in this matter.

Norman Goodloe  
#22410 WCC  
PO Box 473  
Westville IN 46391

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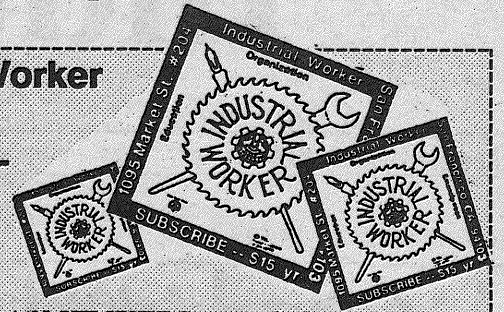
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### BUILDING CONSTRUCTION WORKERS IU 330

IU330 Custom Wood Screen Doors Artisan Shop-Paul Kay, 606 Alamo Pintado #3262, Solvang CA 93463. (805)688-0123

### PRINT & PUBLISHING WORKERS IU 450

IU450 Blackbird Design Job Shop -394 Euclid Ave. #301, Toronto ON M6G 2S9 Canada. (416)941-9945  
IU450 Harbinger Publications Job Shop -Delegate: Merll Truesdale, 18 Bluff Rd., Columbia SC 29201 (803)254-9398

IU450 Lakeside Press Job Shop -1334 Williamson, Madison WI 53703. (608)255-1800

IU450 New Earth Press Job Shop -1921 Ashby Ave. Berkeley CA 94703. (510)549-0176

IU450 P&L Printing Job Shop -2298 Clay, Denver CO 80211. (303)433-1852

IU450 Street of Crocodiles Letter Press Job Shop PO Box 20610, Seattle WA 98102. (206)726-5924

IU450 Typesetting Etc. Job Shop -1095 Market St. #210, San Francisco CA 94103

### FOOD WORKERS IU 460

IU460 Fairhaven Co-operative Flour Mill Job Shop 1115 Railroad Ave., Bellingham, WA 98225

### DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION 500

Industrial Transportation Research & Organizing Project Arthur J. Miller, PO Box 5464 Tacoma WA 98415-0464

### MARINE TRANSPORT WORKERS IU 510

IU510 West Coast MTW -- Sea Dive Job Shop Delegate: Colin Dewey 60 Walter St. San Francisco CA 94114

### EDUCATION WORKERS IU 620

IU620 Education WOB (Workers Organizing Bulletin) EWIU 620, PO Box 762, Cortland NY 13045

IU620 UC Berkeley Recyclers Job Branch

620 Eshleman, Berkeley CA 94720

### ENTERTAINMENT WORKERS IU 630

IU630 General Organizing Committee Coordinator Jim Barclay 75A Elm St., Worcester MA 01609

IU630 Boulevard Bingo Job Shop -Delegate: Tina Gaffney (215)821-5622

IU630 Buskers Rag Newsletter PO Box 1400, Brewster MA 02631

IU630 The Living Theatre Job Shop -PO Box 20180, New York NY 10009 - 8959. Tel: (212)865-3957

Fax: (212)865-3234

### IU630 Musicians & Performing Artists Reference Library -

Worcester Public Library, Salem Square, Worcester MA 01608

IU630 SF Bay Area Jazz Musicians' Service Organization

(510)704-0234

IU630 Workers Stories & Workers Lives Job Shop

c/o SE Michigan GMB, 7252 Kendal, Dearborn MI 48126

### GENERAL DISTRIBUTION WORKERS IU 660

IU660 Aron's Records Job Shop- Los Angeles CA. delegate: Andrew Willett (213)255-9094

IU660 Jura Books Job Shop -110 Crystal St. Petersham, Sydney NSW, Australia

IU660 Time Tested Books Job Shop 1114 -- 21st. Street, Sacramento CA 95814. (916)447-5696

IU660 Wooden Shoe Books & Records Job Shop 112 S. 20th St. Philadelphia PA 19103. (215)569-2477

### PUBLIC SERVICE WORKERS IU 670

IU670 Ann Arbor Tenants Union Job Shop 4001 Michigan Union, Ann Arbor MI 48109. (313)763-6876

IU670 Berkeley Recycling Center Job Shop

M. Carlstrom, 2515 Piedmont #8, Berkeley CA 94607.

IU670 Socialist Party USA Nat'l Office Job Shop 516 W. 25th St. #404, New York NY 10001. (212)691-0776.

## Industrial Worker



### Industrial Worker Collective

Articles may be submitted to any of the following editors:

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**Chicago IW Editors; Literature Dept:** 1476 Irving Park, Chicago IL 60613.

E-Mail: jditz@igc.apc.org

**International & Book Reviews:** PO Box 762, Cortland NY 13045.

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**Denver IW Editors:** 2412 E. Colfax, Denver CO 80206.

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Info: (415)863-WOBS.

## IWW Directory

Job Shop: IWW organized workplace. GMB: General Membership Branch. IU: Industrial Union. Delegate: member who collects dues and signs up new members.

### AUSTRALIA

**NEW SOUTH WALES:** Jura Books -110 Crystal St, Petersham, Sydney, NSW

**Sydney Area Group -Del:** Ray Elbourne, Corner Dittons Ln. & Old Illawara Hwy, Sutton Forest NSW 2577.

**VICTORIA:** Melbourne Area Group-POB 1738Q GPO Melbourne, 3001.

### CANADA

**BRITISH COLUMBIA:** SE BC Group-POB 54, Balfour, V0G 1C0. David Everest 604/229-4978

**MANITOBA:** Winnipeg GMB - B. Mackay, PO Box 3204, GNPO, R3C 4E7

**ONTARIO:** Blackbird Design IU450 Job Shop- 394 Euclid Ave #301, Toronto M6G 2S9. 416/972-6293

**Ottawa GMB-POB 4217 Stn E, K1S 5B2.** 613/231-2922

**Toronto Group-11 Andrews Ave M6J 1S2.** 416/941-9945 Meetings 1st Thurs. of month 7 pm; phone for location.

### UNITED KINGDOM

**Leicester Del:** F.Lee 22 Vicarage Lane Belgrave, LE4 5PD. 053/366-1835

**Swindon/Bristol/Oxford GMB** Kevin Brandstatter, 9 Omdurman St. Swindon, Wilts SN2 1HA

**York -Delegate:** D.Czunys, 13 Wolsley, York YO15BQ.

### UNITED STATES

#### CALIFORNIA: Berkeley:

Berkeley Recycling Ctr IU670 Job Shop -

M. Carlstrom 2515 Piedmont #8, 94607

**New Earth Press IU450 Job Shop-1921**

Ashby Av. 94703. Dave Karoly (510)549-0176.

**UC Berkeley Recyclers IU620 Branch- 620**

Eshleman, 94720. Del: Daniel Widener.

**IWW Local 1/Mendocino-Humboldt GMB-**

Delegates: Judi Bari, POB 656 Willis 95490 (msg:707/468-1660); Herb Jager 114

E. Laurel, Ft. Bragg 95437 (707/937-3457).

**Los Angeles GMB- Del:** Andrew Willett 1136 Arbor Dell Rd. 90041.

**Sacramento- Time Tested Books IU660-**

1114 21st St, 95814. 916/447-5696

**San Diego Group - RMR Kroopkin, 2675**

Fletcher Pkwy #211, El Cajon CA 92020.

619/460-2907

**Santa Cruz GMB-PO Box 534, 95061.**

#### San Francisco:

**SF Bay Area GMB-1095 Market St. #204,**

94103. 415/863-WOBS

**Typesetting Etc. IU450 Job Shop - 1095**

**Market St. #210, 94103**

**West Coast Marine Transport Workers**

**IU510 Del:** Colin Dewey 60 Walter St.,

94114. 415/864-6037.

#### COLORADO: Denver:

**Denver/Boulder GMB-2412 E. Colfax,**

80206. (303)388-1065 Office hrs Sat.9-12.

**Meetings 1st Thur.@month 7 pm Del:** Cliff

**Sundstrom, 910 E 8th Ave #202, 80218.**

**(303)832-7602. Brendan Ruiz, PO Box**

**370663, 80237-0663.**

**P&L Printing IU450 Job Shop- 2298 Clay,**

**80211. 303/433-1852**

**FLORIDA: J. Lewis, 345 Ocean Dr.**

**#1103, Miami Beach 33139**

**GEORGIA: Atlanta Group - 340 Elmira**

**Pl, 30307. 404/524-1243**

**HAWAII: D.Goldsmith Box 469 University**

**Sta. Honolulu 96822**

**IDAHO: Boise Group-W.Cohan, PO Box**

**822, Caldwell ID 83606.**

**ILLINOIS: Chicago GMB -New World**

**Resource Ctr 1476 Irving Park, 60613.**

**312/549-5045. Meetings, 1st Friday 7:30 pm.**

**LOUISIANA: Baton Rouge Group- Del:**

**Steve Donahue 729 Bungalow Lane**

**70802. (504)389-9572.**

**MARYLAND: Baltimore GMB -R.Bey,**

**Black Shield, Box 1681, Glen Burnie**

**21060. 301/367-3024**

**MICHIGAN: Ann Arbor Tenants Union**

**IU670 Job Shop- 4001 Michigan Union,**

**Ann Arbor 48109. 313/763-6876.**

**SE Mich. GMB- Delegates: Albert Parsons**

**313/769-0695; Michael Kozura, 7252**

**Kendal, Dearborn 48126. 313/581-2065**

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**Box 158-B, Hartwick 13348. (607/293-6489)**

**Socialist Party USA Natl Office IU670**

**Job Shop- 516 W. 25th St. #404, NYC**

**10001. 212/691-0776**

**PENNSYLVANIA: Lancaster Group-PO**

**Box 2084, 17608**

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**5728; Mike D'Amore (215)434-0218.**

**Reading Group-PO Box 8468, 19603.**

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**Page (215)562-3487**

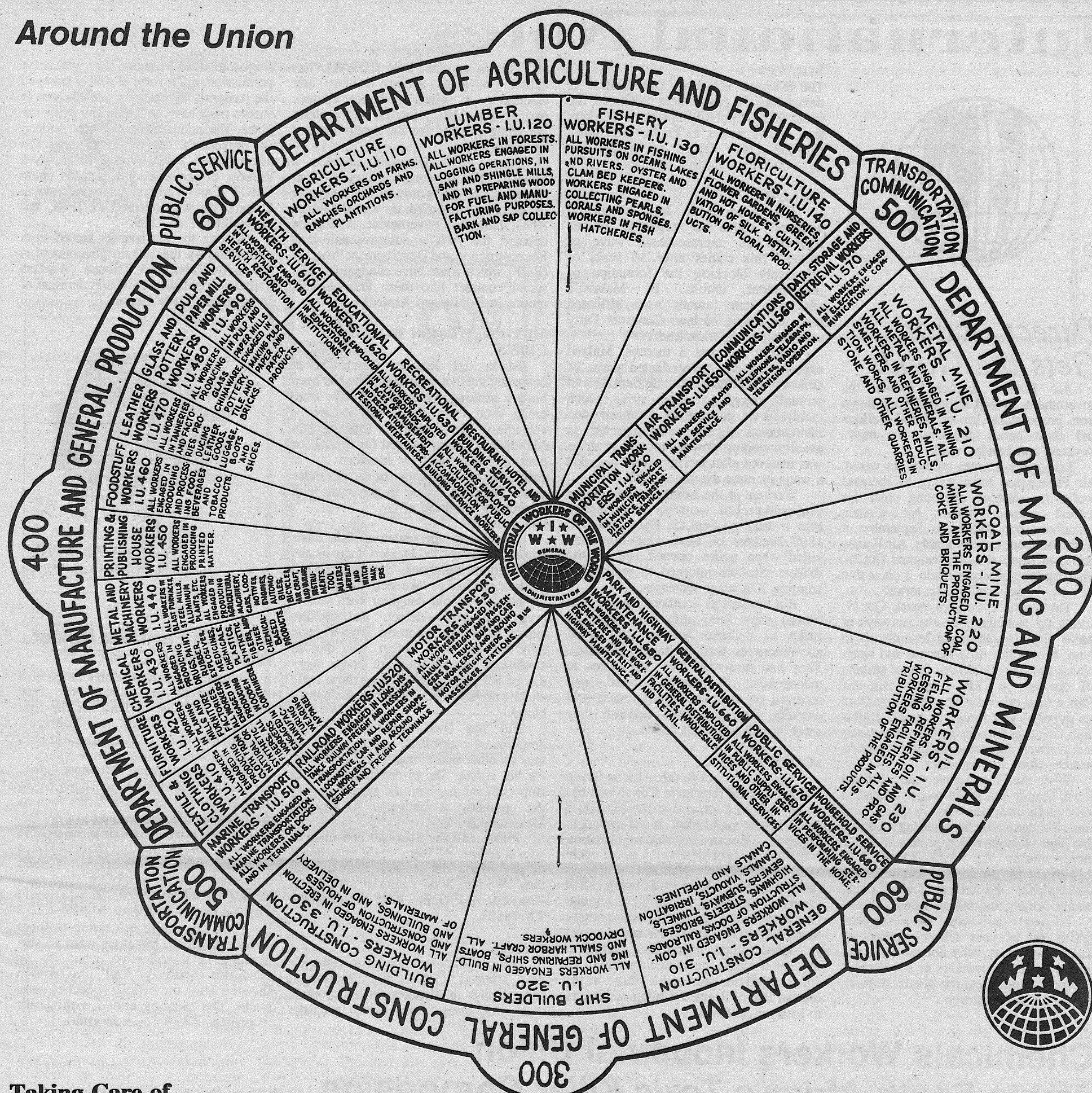
**Philadelphia:**

**Philadelphia GMB- 4722 Baltimore Ave.**

**19143. (215)747-0855.**



## Around the Union



## Taking Care of Business: Citizenship and the Charter of Incorporation

Richard L. Grossman and IWW Member Frank T. Adams have a small booklet that describes the history and laws of corporate charters. They suggest how citizens groups can use existing state laws to exercise public control of corporations. For a copy, send \$4 plus a self addressed stamped envelope with 52 cents postage to: Charter, Ink. PO Box 806 Cambridge MA 02140. Bulk prices available.

## DID YOU KNOW?

**Students  
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Unpaid Workers  
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Part Time Workers  
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Trade Union Members  
All Are Welcome in the  
Industrial Workers of the World**

## Want to Start E-Mailing?

In 1993 Wobblies doubled their use of electronic communication over the previous year. *Industrial Worker* has also moved strongly into E-mail for receiving news stories, and for coordinating production in distant locations. As well, most news stories about IWW activities are now being posted onto wide-ranging bulletin conferences, resulting in new contacts and new members. This issue of IW was partly produced by a mobile volunteer in a strange city using a combination of commercial and NGO office tools, another landmark accomplishment made possible by E-mail.

Wobblies who are interested in getting started with electronic communications can do so quite easily. The world of computer equipment, software and electronic media is complex and always changing, but fortunately the basics are simple.

To use E-mail you need a computer and a modem. The cheapest second hand equipment will do the job. You can probably find a good used Mac or IBM-clone and modem for \$500 most anyplace in North America. The modem is a small printed circuit board plugged inside the computer, that links to your telephone. You disconnect your phone receiver, and plug your modem connection into the phone outlet. While you're at it, try to get a fax-modem; then you can send and receive faxes through your computer, as well as ordinary E-mail messages.

That's your equipment. Only one thing more, you need a program to operate the modem. There are a number of these available with names like Telix or Procomm. The best one for you is the one your friend has and can show you how to use.

The best thing is to find a friend who uses E-mail, to help you get set up and show you how to send and receive messages. If you don't know someone, ask around your local NGO offices, libraries, union newsletter offices, or universities. Many E-mail users are fanatics and

like to help other people. If you still can't find anyone to help, let Industrial Worker know, and we will try to help you locate someone on the networks in your area.

You can dial direct through your computer to another person's computer, but it has to be on and waiting in order to receive. What most people do is use one of the E-mail networks such as Internet and Peacenet (Webnet in Canada, Pegasus in Australia, ? in Britain). These systems will hold your mail in a mailbox until you decide to pick it up.

Costs of system use? IW Coordinator at Ottawa spends about \$30 a month, plus \$125 per year. It's cheaper than talking on the phone, and has the advantage of sending text documents.

Some people don't want to be involved with computers, and that is fine. Diversity of communications methods is strength. We encourage those who do want to participate, to take the plunge. Your fellow Wobblies online will be glad to assist sister and brother workers getting started. E-mail won't do your laundry or feed the cat, but it is certainly an effective method of communications.

Contact Industrial Worker Coordinator, PO Box 4217 Stn. E, Ottawa ON K1S 5B2. (Mynor Variante)



# International Notes



## Direct Action Gets the Goods

Air France workers forced the government-owned airline to back down from proposals to lay off 4,000 workers and slash bonus payments for night, weekend and holiday work.

Like other airlines around the world, Air France has been trying to increase profits by slashing operating costs for several years. When Air France announced the layoffs in September it described them as irrevocable. Air France chairman Bernard Attali resigned Oct. 24, when striking workers made it clear that they would not swallow his terms.

The airline's workers struck Oct. 19, setting up picketlines on the runways of major airports and roads leading up to them. Riot police used tear gas and water cannons to force 3,000 Air France strikers off runways at Orly Airport. But Air France (and other airlines operating from the airports) was forced to cancel flights from Orly and Charles de Gaulle airports, and to divert incoming flights to airports in other cities and countries.

When the French government backed down, fearing the strike would spread to other industries, the Oct. 26 *New York Times* condemned it for "cav(ing) in at the first sign of labor union protest..." But a survey during the strike found 71% support for the strikers, as many French workers share the strikers' fear of rising unemployment and falling wages.

So next time your boss suggests getting rid of your fellow workers or slashing your pay, why not take a lesson from your fellow workers at Air France? If Direct Action gets the goods in Paris, it'll do the same for you.

### BOLIVIA

The Bolivian Workers Confederation is demanding the government reconsider the firing of 7000 public employees. Workers took to the streets in La Paz and other Bolivian cities Oct. 15 to protest the government's anti-labor policies.

### MALAWI

The government has recognized workers' rights to organize unions following an unprecedented wave of strikes. This comes after 30 years of effectively blocking the formation of independent unions. In Malawi's one-party state, unions were affiliated with the ruling Malawi Congress Party which appointed their leaders.

During the past 3 months, Malawi experienced an unprecedented wave of strikes in all sectors. Starting Sept. 2, civil servants staged a 5-week strike which paralysed the government. Domestic and international flights were canceled as aviation workers downed tools. The strike was resolved after workers were awarded a wage increase averaging 20%.

Workers at the Lonrho-owned Sugar Corporation Ltd went on the rampage after a strike on Sept. 15. They destroyed 1800 hectares of cane. One man was killed when police opened fire on the strikers. Strikers returned to work after winning 20% wage increases.

But workers at Southern Bottlers Ltd (Sobo) were fired after they went on strike to demand housing and night allowances as well as salary increases. They had presented their grievances to management 6 months before, and received no response. Management said workers were dismissed because they went on strike without notice.

### SOUTH AFRICA

The Council of South African Trade Unions Central Executive Committee has voted to hold a general strike Nov. 15, a week before parliament is scheduled to approve South Africa's interim constitution negotiated by the government and the African National Congress (among others). The strike is being called to protest clauses in the draft constitution limiting workers' rights. General secretary Sam Shilowa announced the strike would go ahead unless negotiators agreed to remove a clause guaranteeing tenure of current civil servants and a clause in the interim Bill of Rights enabling employers to lock out workers.

This is the first time COSATU has called for mass action without first discussing its plans with its alliance partner, the ANC. Marches and protests are being planned for the weeks leading up to the strike.

Some 1600 delegates attended a special COSATU congress Sept. 10-12 to discuss COSATU's role in the transition to democracy and relations with the future ANC majority government. Delegates debated the ANC's controversial draft Reconstruction and Development Program (RDP) which some have condemned as a social contract like those that hobbled unions in Britain and Australia.

### MEXICO: WOMEN WORKERS CRISIS

Maria del Rosario Garcia is in desperate need of your help. She has been hunger striking for over 30 days after being fired from Kemet of Mexico, a subsidiary of Union Carbide in Matamoros. Maria worked for Kemet for over 20 years, and by Mexican law is entitled to compensation for each of those years. Kemet is trying to get away with paying her one third of that amount.

The case is representative of the crisis women workers in Mexico face in the maquiladora industries. Garcia was fired because she had to take sick leave to care for her 2-year old daughter born with a congenital heart defect, and defects similar to Downs Syndrome. Doctors have told her the birth defect was due to conditions she had to work under every day of her pregnancy because those toxic chemicals have been found in the baby's blood.

She has been abandoned by the government-controlled "union," and so sees no other option than to hunger strike for her rights. She is determined not to stop until she is given the separation pay the company is obligated to pay by Mexican labor law.

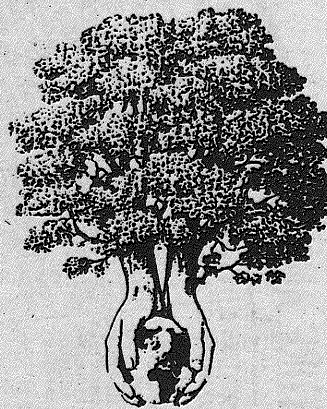
Please call the Mexican consulate in your area and tell them that Kemet needs to pay Maria del Rosario Garcia what they owe her. Send letters of support to: Chayito, c/o P.O. box 4717, Brownsville TX 78523.

### RUSSIA

Veteran dissident Vladimir Klebanov was arrested Oct. 16 and imprisoned several days in Moscow on the grounds that he does not have propiska

(registration) in Moscow. [Propiska is the permission, in the form of rubber stamp in the passport, which every adult person in Russia must have, to live in any particular place. The stamp is issued by the police.] In Brezhnev's era Mr. Klebanov was arrested and jailed several times, as a founder of the independent trade union SMOT (Free Workers' Inter-professional Union). He was released in 1988, and "rehabilitated" in 1989.

Among the newspapers barred from publishing by the Yeltsin government is the daily Rabochaya Tribuna (Workers Tribune), published by the Federation of Independent Trade Unions.



## Russian Farmers Resist World Bank Con

Russian President Yeltsin signed a decree Oct. 27 that allows the free purchase and sale of land for the first time since 1917. State and collective farms control 92% of Russia's farm land and are home to 30 million workers.

The International Finance Corp., part of the World Bank, has been trying to help officials privatize farms such as the Niva farm in the province of Nizhny Novgorod by offering workers "property certificates and shares." But at a recent meeting, workers seemed unimpressed with promises that each farmer will be free to choose what to do with his or her property.

"You say you're not trying to force us into anything, but if we want to stay working in a collective, what do we need this certificate for?" one woman shouted after the official speeches were made. The meeting ended with shouts of protest. (*Wall Street Journal*)

## Chemicals Workers Industrial Union Fights South Africa's Toxic Killer Corporation

Three senior chemical executives in South Africa are being tried for murder following the death of worker Peter Cele from mercury poisoning in July. The case exposes the callous attitude of big business to the lives of workers. The surprising stand taken by South African authorities against Thor Chemicals followed a concerted campaign by a coalition of unions, environmental groups and public health workers and graphic media coverage of effects on workers of mercury poisoning.

Thor Chemicals managing director Steve van der Vyver, factory manager Gavin Daniels and chief supervisor William Smith are charged with "culpable homicide," and with 42 counts under the Machinery and Occupational Safety Act.

British-owned Thor Chemicals plant in Cato Ridge, 50 kilometres from Pietermaritzburg in Natal, was the world's biggest mercury recovery plant, burning highly toxic mercury waste imported from UK and the USA. Thor is a subsidiary of Thor Holdings. After an independent inquiry in 1992 called for stringent safety measures at Cato Ridge, Thor Chemicals ceased all operations involving mercury compounds.

Cele and another worker, Engelbert Ngobo, who remains in a coma in hospital, worked at Thor Chemicals for one year. Evidence has also been presented by several former Thor workers that management had fired workers when it was discovered that levels of mercury in their bodies

were dangerous.

In 1988 government scientists testing the Umgweni stream, which begins near the Cato Ridge plant and from which Fredville draws its water, found it was contaminated with mercury. The authorities chose to keep this secret. In 1989, Earthlife Africa - one of South Africa's main environmental groups - found out about the contamination. Greenpeace International also became involved.

At the same time, workers at the plant who were fired after becoming sick from exposure to mercury, alerted the Chemical Workers Industrial Union. The CWIU demonstrated outside Thor. The furore led the government to order a temporary closure of the mercury processing section of the plant. The union attempted to confirm rumours that many workers had been poisoned and some had "gone mad." Thor bosses refused to allow an independent doctor access to employees' medical records or to take urine samples.

The Chemical Workers Industrial Union asked Dr Mark Colvin, occupational health expert at the University of Durban, to investigate. He examined 5 Thor workers brought to him by shop stewards, finding them affected by mercury causing memory loss and tremors. The worst affected, Eric Mkhize, suffered from "profound auditory and visual hallucinations followed by severe anxiety attacks." In 1991, Colvin finally got hold of Thor's

medical records and discovered that 87% of all workers at Cato Ridge had mercury levels above the 50 micrograms per litre of urine danger level set by the International Labour Organisation and the World Health Organisation. Mkhize's levels were found to measure between 400 and 1000 micrograms!

Dr. Colvin said that the "symptoms of mercury poisoning can sometimes mimic other psychiatric disorders. It is not like having a skin disease where you can see what is going on. The symptoms are subtle but can have a devastating effect on a person's life."

Eric Mkhize's symptoms, however, were anything but subtle: "I used to sweat a lot at work. The first thing I noticed was my hands shaking. I showed my production manager. He thought it was a joke. They laughed. A few months later I felt very strange when I got to work ... Instead of going to my workplace I went to the administration block. I started doing funny things, playing with imaginary toys in the flower beds, handing out money. I don't remember doing it but they told me I did it."

After this behaviour, Thor managers sent Mkhize to a doctor, who gave him some vitamin pills and told him to take a day off. During a second fit of "weird and crazy" acts, Mkhize said, he was talked into signing a resignation form. Without a job and living in his one-room tin shack in Fredville, his condition worsened: "I started hearing strange noises inside my

By Norm Dixon

ears - like someone calling me right inside or dogs barking or the radio playing. I still hear them even now but it's not as bad as it was."

Until the arrest of van der Vyver, Daniels and Smith, Thor continued to deny any responsibility for the mercury-related deaths and illnesses.

Since the murder charges were laid, several more Thor employees have fallen ill. In mid-August a painter at Thor, Thulumuzi Shenge, died. On Sept. 20, Petros Gwamanda collapsed and was admitted to hospital with "classic symptoms" of mercury poisoning.

The British-based Environmental Justice Networking Forum is organising demonstrations in Britain to force the UK government to disclose all its information on toxic waste dumping in South Africa and other African countries. Earthlife Africa will pursue civil claims in the courts against Thor Chemicals on behalf of the growing number of victims.

Chemical Workers Industrial Union spokesperson Mohamed Motala says: "There are numerous dangerous processes involving workers in South Africa, yet it is only when someone dies that we blink. It was only when the environmentalists joined in and we went public that progress was made."

(nyt, quotes from *New Ground*)



# Notes From an IWW Elder

David Roediger has compiled, and Charles H. Kerr Publishing has published a volume of recollections of Fred Thompson. *Fellow Worker: the life of Fred Thompson* was put together mostly from letters. Roediger writes of the difficulty in gathering autobiographical material, explaining that Thompson came "from a specifically IWW tradition, which refused to cast anyone as humanity's savior but the working class itself. Thompson also deemphasized the role of leaders, not just of himself but even of such especially heroic Wobblies as Big Bill Haywood, Joe Hill and Frank Little."

Born in 1900, FW Thompson was a Wobbly for 65 years. He was one of the individuals most responsible for the survival of the organization through the decades and its retaining its principles:

Thompson, writes Roediger, "perceived that memory is itself political and that the past could bring him together with young people instead of dividing him from them. In my own case, he was an extraordinarily gentle teacher, almost via parables. I often heard the warning against ultra-leftism, delivered by an old-timer to Thompson in his youth: 'Don't get so far ahead of the parade that you can't hear the band.' Much of what Fred taught addressed the tendency for young people, at first gung-ho revolutionaries, to despair quickly. He pointed out that at one time coal miners in one 'holler' hated those in the next. Meager as progress sometimes seemed, we had gone all the way from that situation to 'inter-holler' unionism and to national organization. Global unionism was not then an idle hope. He was also very fond of likening a modern radical's situation to that of a sandhog (tunnel worker) during a tunnel collapse. There was no sure way out of this mess but every reason to keep trying."

Excerpts from *Fellow Worker: The Life of Fred Thompson* are © 1993 Charles H. Kerr Company, 1740 West Greenleaf, Chicago IL 60626. (Write for catalog. Kerr is America's oldest alternative publishing house.)

## Joining Up

After World War Two, I asked an old-timer in Chicago, in his 90s and a champion meeting goer since the Knights of Labor, about whether the young or the old had come most often through the years. He said that "youth only periodically erupts" but that the continuity of the left came mostly from people with bald heads and gray hair. From his boyhood on, he said, people had always said, "We've got to get more young people into the radical movement."

A young Wobbly and an old one recruited me to the IWW in September of 1922. Old George Holmes shamed me into joining and A. L. Nurse was the young delegate who lined me up. Nurse is still an IWW delegate in Montana as I write this (in 1985) and still keeps in touch. I had read some IWW publications before coming from Canada and had it in mind to join them, but put it off because I had heard these stories of their burning barns and so on. I hoboed down the coast, working here and there, mixing with Wobs and folks who said they were Wobs, and got conflicting answers. Eventually I sifted these answers out, concluding that the folks who claimed to have destroyed things were not actually familiar with any of the details an active Wob would know, such as hall locations, industrial union structure or numbers.

The general drift of what the older Wobs told me was that the war had given a new meaning to the word "sabo-

tage," and so they had quit using the word. Newspaper usage had by then identified the term with demolition, arson and similar physical damage. Before the war it had meant "If the boss is paying you for a strong back and a weak mind, give him a strong back and a weak mind." It had evidently meant to them what Veblen had formulated as the "withdrawal of efficiency." Even this was to be used only where appropriate, for if employees did not cooperate with those employers who did improve conditions there would be no incentive to improve them. It has also been used in a sense of malicious mischief - for example, before striking a restaurant, putting Limburger cheese where it would not be conspicuous but would be heated up by lighting fixtures. Even this was now to be avoided because it tended to reinforce a wrong impression people had got of the IWW, and the organization was being hurt by this wrong impression. These old-timers assured me that it had never been IWW policy to engage in any serious damage. They were serious and yet jovial and dedicated to democratic unionism and to improving the job conditions, showing far more regard than most people for their fellow workers whether organized or not.

## Detroit in the 1930s

Organizing certainly taught me a lot, especially in Detroit between 1932 and 1935, when the IWW captured the ears of workers in the auto industry. The labor movement of the early 30s was really born out of the unemployed who were insisting, "Don't be afraid to go on strike. We won't come and scab. We'll knock down anyone who does come around trying to scab on you." The revival of unions came as much out of the neighborhoods as out of the factories.

Our neighborhood street meetings in Detroit were a typical, hopeful act at a time when job organization seemed hopeless even in a city like Detroit, where the IWW had enjoyed a presence for two decades, had a fair-sized hall at 3747 Woodward and had a local ranging from 50 to 150 members well be-

fore the organizing upsurge of 1933.

Soapbox meetings focused on a general denunciation of the system and gave us the small start in spreading IWW philosophy we used the following year in organizing at factories. The meetings also made clear the tie between unemployed and employed workers making the employed feel able to dare to strike against the wage cuts of late 1933 and 1934.

Soapboxing in parks was not entirely our preference, and neighborhood meetings disappeared as factory gate activities took their place. Sometimes the transition from being a soapboxer for an "ism" to being a union organizer was not easy. In late summer of 1933 when I returned to Detroit to begin a long stay there, the organizing campaign at Murray Body, the IWW's most successful in Detroit, was under way. We had soapboxed at Murray Body for weeks with little result, then Leon Pody, a metal worker who had joined us earlier in 1933 as a result of the Briggs strike, told us that the finishers were angry about not having new files to replace worn-down ones. Frank Cedervall made a noontime talk poking fun at management for the files and that was the start of our making real progress there. The best information for making an appeal concrete has to come from those on the job.

Several former Briggs Company activists came to Murray Body, often after Briggs fired them. Wobbly organizers got jobs on each of Murray Body's floors. They soon recruited about a thousand members, almost all within the months of August and early September 1933. This was an astronomical figure for an organization which had only five to twelve members in the other scattered Detroit factories in which it had a presence. For a brief period the IWW was the constructive hope among those seeking industrial unionism in auto. We looked forward to the possibility that the IWW would be the major industrial union in Detroit. Just as quickly, the Murray Body organization was drawn into a smash-up, a strike coinciding with layoffs as car models changed. The strike was lost, along with most of the jobs of the organizers and the mo-

mentum of the drive. Even so we maintained a presence in Detroit for a time thereafter. Pody went on to Hudson Motor Car and got the idea of passing out printed cards - for which I cut the stencil and did the mimeographing - saying "Sit Down and Watch Your Pay Go Up." Hudson workers using such tactics, won round after round of wage increases in the winter of 1934. One reason to use Pody's tactics was to show that the IWW was in the plant rather than outside leafleting it.

Always broke, we managed to distribute over a million pieces of literature at plant gates in Detroit in the first half of the 30s. When I conjure up my picture of the thirties the old mimeograph machine sits there front and center, somewhat surrealistically surrounded by hands reaching out at change of shift time from some plant a mile or two away. With treasurer Gust Hunt digging into the bottom of the Bull Durham tobacco sack where he kept the funds, we even managed to buy time for pro-Wobbly publicity on radio station WEXL. We put on plays and ran dances where kids as young as eight, organized in the Junior Wobblies, shared the floor with folks as old as eighty. We drew no firm line between recreation and propaganda, for if one was full of spaghetti, drinking wine and singing Wobbly songs it was hard to tell the socializing from the propaganda. We used drama and music like printers' ink to make our points, to lambaste the system.

Ultimately we Wobblies got very little in the way of lasting membership out of all this work. Within a few years after our efforts the United Auto Workers (UAW) had done what we failed to do by organizing auto workers across craft lines. Historians have noted that several Wobs became important UAW organizers or stewards. These included Pody, Nick DiGaetano, Perly P. McManus, Lloyd Jones and John W. Anderson. I admired all these leaders but would want to suggest that the IWW's influence on the best of the early UAW was far more in the people whose names are forgotten, who read the leaflets, went to IWW department meetings at Murray Body and developed an expectation of what a union should do and of how it should be something to enable them to do together things they could not do individually. One obvious carryover is the use of the term "solidarity" and of the song "Solidarity Forever." Back in the 20s I was peddling *Industrial Solidarity* on the streets of Denver and someone asked me what language it was in, since "solidarity" in the title was a strange word. We made it better known.

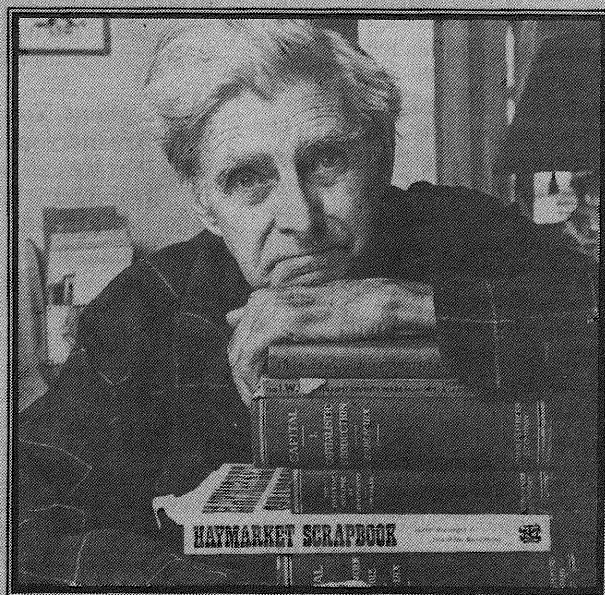
## Sticking With the Union

Why do I stick with the IWW? Simple - because it set out to do something that needs to be done and isn't finished yet. I look out my window and see my neighbors' children head for school. I recall that there are generals and corporation heads and ornery politicians with some unpleasant plans for these kids, and I know that this is no time for me to give up on the unfinished business of the IWW.

Sure I have other interests and causes: Amnesty International, socialism, peace, environmental protection, etc., etc., but I see little point to any of these unless workers develop a substantial voice about the work they do, how they do it, and where they ship the product. Industrial democracy is indispensable to any good cause.

I gather your question may not be so much why did I stick, but why did a million or so join but not stick, and millions more not even join? The miracle of capitalism is that the working class supports it, and somewhere in that mystery lies your answer.

## FELLOW WORKER THE LIFE OF FRED THOMPSON



Compiled, with an Introduction, by  
**DAVE ROEDIGER**  
from the recollections of  
**FRED W. THOMPSON**

CHARLES H. KERR



FIRST PERSON SERIES



# AIW Local 837 vs. A.E. Staley

What follows are the observations of three rank-and-file members of Allied Industrial Workers Local 837, David Atteberry, Richard Brummet, Emery Scrimsher, who have been locked out of the A.E. Staley company in Decatur, Illinois since June 27, 1993. Their comments were made over several days during the most recent session of the Ed Mann Labor School in Youngstown, Ohio in October. Alice Lynd transcribed and edited the following remarks.

A slightly longer version appears in *Impact: the Rank & File Newsletter* (November 1993) available for \$10 a year from Impact, PO Box 2125, Youngstown OH 44504.

## Introduction

**Richard Brummet:** We are not on strike. The Union leadership made it plain from the outset that we would not strike. The decision was made a long time ago, with what happened to Caterpillar, that this local would not strike. If there was a work stoppage, it was going to be the Company that was going to initiate the work stoppage. That was conveyed to the public every chance there could be.

Staley's is a corn processing plant. You're drinking Staley's right now in Coke. You're drinking a Staley product. This paper that you got probably has Staley product in it. Wallboard that you put on your houses has got Staley product in it. There's probably nothing you eat, drink, wear, walk on, look at that don't have Staley product in it. At this point, there is nothing that can be made out of corn that we don't make out of it. We process corn.

We were taken over in 1988 by Tate & Lyle, PLC of London, the largest sugar processor in the world. In the first negotiations in 1990, it started out as hard negotiations. Larry Cunningham, who was the CEO of the Company at the time, walked in. He told the Company side, "Let's settle it." They settled it and he quit.

They've had five CEOs in three years since then. None of them have any expertise in any kind of manufacturing process. They are strictly there to get rid of us. That's their job, to get rid of us. And they're not going to do that. They're not going to get rid of us, the way things are going.

Our local has stuck together very well. I'm surprised. I think a lot of people are surprised at how well this local has stuck together.

Tate & Lyle has never cried poverty. Staley's has provided approximately 25-35% of the profit of Tate & Lyle.

They are now saying that, since this lockout, their American subsidiaries are starting to lose money. And a lot of it is us.

We built a very good coalition with a lot of locals. We do have sanction from the CIO/AFL. That was hard-fought to get. There are certain protocols that you have to go through.

We got help from a lot of people.

In Illinois, you can't get unemployment if you're locked out. You can't get unemployment if you're on strike. **We've got unemployment.** The reason we got it was because the local took 2000 people over to Springfield, which is our capital, and screamed bloody murder under the rotunda in the capital building. We interrupted the Senate which was in session at the time and they had to suspend the Senate and come out and see who was doing all the screaming and yelling. We had several people chasing the Governor up the back stairs of the capital building. We did that twice. They've got a Solidarity Committee in Chicago that's helping us out and they were greatly instrumental in helping us get our unemployment. I think it became a political hot potato for

the State. So we are the only people in Illinois that's ever gotten unemployment while on a lockout.

**David Atteberry:** They consider us laid off.

## Beginnings

**Brummet:** The leadership started an education program for this local about a year ago in July. I think after our last negotiations they decided that the next negotiations were going to be bad, so for the past three years they've started amongst themselves checking on what they could do to help fight this. Before the outset of this lockout, we had three shifts, we'd have a Tuesday night meeting and a Wednesday morning meeting. I usually went to the Wednesday morning meeting and we'd have maybe six or eight people. At the night meetings you might have about 20. At that time, there was close to 800 working there.

Now, we have meetings every Tuesday night at 7:00 o'clock and we're getting 700, 800, 900 people. That's with spouses.

**Scrimsher:** Sometimes we get that many without the spouses.

**Brummet:** Up until this contract, our Bargaining Committee usually kept things a secret. Nothing was let out as far as negotiations. But at the outset of these negotiations, our Bargaining Committee and Executive Board made a decision that everything was going to be out in the open. They kept nothing from anybody. That was one reason for these Solidarity meetings. As far as I could tell, they tell everything that they know.

In the past negotiations, the rumor mills would go like crazy. But by the time they brought something to you for a vote, no one really knew what was going on.

**Question:** What caused the local to open up the process?

**Brummet:** I don't really know how to answer that. We had a new president and we had some new people on the Executive Board. The man who was president during the 1990 negotiations decided he didn't want to have any part of the 1993 negotiations so he dropped out. So our vice president became our president.

I think they didn't want people to think they were trying to stab anybody.

**Scrimsher:** I think they also knew that this might be a long fight. And they figured they better educate people and get people involved or the long fight wouldn't last very long.

Plus the fact that the people [the Company] hired admitted that they were union-busting people. They felt that they were absolutely and totally out to bust the Union completely. Those people don't want a union anywhere around.

**Question:** Why were spouses and others included in the Solidarity meetings? Where did that come from?

**Brummet:** It came from the leadership. I think it was a good thing. I remember when the education started, we had a labor professor from Indiana University come talk to us. He said, "Before this is over with, you're going to have divorces. You're going to have family members not talking to each other." He went through a whole list of things. I said, "Aw, I don't really believe it." Well, my mother and I don't talk over this one issue. We're at an impasse on this. We have got some members that their wives are on them, giving up. "Go find a job. Let it go." And to be perfectly honest, that decision is probably going to come to every member in our local sooner or later. Life has got to go on and each person has got to make an individual decision. "Am I going to keep this going?" We have people that are on the verge of losing their houses now. Some of them have lost their cars.

In my personal situation, I don't have a lot of money. My wife and I, a couple of years ago, decided that things were going to get rough and we started paying as much stuff off as possible. I'm driving an 8-year old car and an 11-year old truck. We're not hurting at this point. But I'm

going to have to make a decision before long. All my spare time right now is with this. I'm doing a lot of travelling. I, personally, will have to make a decision one of these days that I'm either going to go get a job and try to keep this going, or just flat give it up. I don't think I'm going to give it up because I got 24 years. I'm 48 years old. I got half my life in this plant. And at this point I'm not going to give it up.

**Question:** You've asked for a boycott. Are there specific products in this area that we can help you along with?

**Brummet:** There are two specific things you can do: one is not to buy Domino sugar, not buy Great Western sugar or GW sugar (it's the same thing), and not buy Red Patch sugar. Domino is the flagship of Tate & Lyle. They own Domino Sugar. Don't buy it. Domino, from what we understand, is starting to hurt.

One other thing is State Farm insurance. Archer Daniels Midland (ADM) is our biggest competitor. ADM is such a big competitor of Staley's that ADM owns over 7% of Tate & Lyle stock, which makes them the largest single stockholder of Tate & Lyle. They're also such a big competitor of Staley's that they built a two-and-a-half-mile pipeline from their plant in Decatur to our plant. Now it's supposed to be a two-way pipeline, but the pipeline was put in to provide what we call slurry (which is our raw material to start out with) for the Staley plant in case they couldn't make enough to fill their orders. State Farm Insurance owns approximately 100 million dollars worth of bonds of ADM. They also own approximately 7% stock in ADM. They own stock in Staley's. They have board members that are interchanged between these companies. Our feeling is that if we can get enough cancellations of State Farm policies, State Farm will then pressure ADM which in turn will pressure Tate & Lyle to help us settle this.

State Farm has admitted that one in seven policies of all their policies sold are to union members. They told us that. So if you take one policy out of seven and drop it, they are losing a tremendous amount of money. They keep saying that we're not hurting them. But we know for a fact that they're sending out memos to every State Farm agent in this country about this boycott.

## Safety Standdown

**Brummet:** Our contract has been up for a year the first of this month [October]. They locked us out on June 27 [1993]. We had a rally on the 26th of June. It was sponsored by us and the UAW Caterpillar local in Decatur. About 5000 people showed up in Decatur and we had a human chain. We had a human chain the whole distance, 2.5 to 3 miles, between the two plants. The next morning at 3 a.m. on the 27th, they locked us out. We feel that [the rally] might have had something to do with it.

Also, in the first part of June, we had what we called the "safety standdown" in the plant. They fired one of our members. We use short wave radios to communicate in the plant. When they fired one member, there was a code on the radio. The plant was closed down. The biggest majority of the people walked out. We went to the union hall and the membership voted not to go back in to work on the next shift. We went back the next morning and [the Company] wouldn't allow them back in. Basically, they tried to negotiate: they said, "No one's going back in unless you sign this paper that says you will abide by the imposed contract." No one would sign it. We left. The Company was emphatically telling the news media and everybody around, "We were not letting them back in. They are never getting back into this plant." At 6:00 p.m. that night, they let the next shift in.

**Scrimsher:** We had our whole local there too, plus thousands, when they tried



to put them back in. We waited until they let in every single person in that gang. We said, if they don't let one person in that gate, nobody's going in. We had real good support with our members.

Earlier, before our contract expired, they wanted to open negotiations real early, four or five months ahead of time. And we wouldn't do this because from experience we saw from some other unions that if you open up negotiations early and try to settle before their contract expires, they'd just declare an impasse on them that much quicker. They were really upset because we wouldn't open our negotiations up until we had to. Believe me, they declared an impasse just as quick as they could on us. That's when we started having schooling ahead of time.

We started the in-plant strategy. We voted to take extra dues. Some of us paid up to \$100 a month. We raised regular dues to \$75, and they had a volunteer group called the Casualty Fund. You donated \$25 more in case somebody got fired or let go after the contract expired.

## Work-to-Rule

**Question:** Take us from Point A to the lockout.

**Brummet:** I'm not giving anybody any specifics on what went on in this plant.

One person explained that work-to-rule is a strike that you get paid for. If you go on strike, you get no wages. If you work-to-rule, it's a strike but you get paid for it. You leave your brains at home is the easiest way to put it. You take your body to work. You give them nothing. You call up the boss and say, "This piece of equipment is doing such-and-such," and he says, "What do you think we ought to do?" and you tell him, "You come up here and you tell me what to do. That's what they pay you for." And if he tells you to do something and you know it's wrong, you do it anyway.

**Scrimsher:** You don't give them any advice or anything. You don't do anything to help them get something going if they can't get it going, except for what they tell you, that's all. You just absolutely don't help them, is what it amounts to.

**Question:** What happens when they come up to you and say, "You know your damn job. Just do it!"

**Scrimsher:** Say I had to run a conduit job. It might be a 3-hour job if I wanted to make it 3 hours. But I could also make it last 2 weeks. I had to get new conduit. I haven't got the right kind of



# In-Plant Strategy to Lock-Out

**capitalism  
is tearing  
us apart**

**it's  
our  
solidarity  
against  
theirs**

**IS IS A  
ZONE!**

wire. I don't have any parts. Anybody who's worked in a plant knows that we have to order parts. You don't get them just like that. It takes a while. You can make a job last a long time.

**Brummet:** I used to run an extruder. I shut it down for the last time before they locked us out. We busted the shaft on the extruder. A shaft alone costs \$2500, and when you take into consideration rebuilding the gear box and all that, you're looking at about \$5-6,000 for this whole unit.

When we busted the shaft, we had one batch of starch left to run out of this extruder.

**Question:** What do you mean, "We busted it?"

**Brummet:** It just broke. No, I don't sabotage. I work to rule. And it broke. So they replaced the shaft. When they replace the shaft, you put it all back together, you run it for an hour to set your bearings in, and check to see how much play you have on the end. You're supposed to have around 3/1000ths play on the outer end of the shaft. But for some reason they never run it and they never checked it. They put it back together and they started it up.

I had to be on my 3 days off and they didn't run it very good on my 3 days off. When I came back, they told me, they finally shut it down because it was rolling and shaking so much that the bolts were falling out. They have a feetboard on it that weighs about 800 pounds and we use hardened bolts to hold it to the gear box. Well those bolts were shearing off. It made a noise like kerthunk and belts start snapping. So the guy that was on it didn't work it right and he told them, "I don't know what the hell's the matter with it. If you want me to run it, I'll go ahead and turn it on. It takes 18 belts to run the thing, so I'll burn the belts off if you want me to." They said, "No, shut it down." So they shut it down and put the guy on another job until I came back in from my 3 days off.

They told me to go back and take a look at it and see what was wrong with it. So I started taking it apart. I found the top of a bolt. There was a bolt on the inside that had broken off. So I took that apart and I put it back together and started up.

When I got to running it, put a load on this thing. I started it up and put a load on it and it ran about 20 minutes, and I had a 4 inch movement at the end of the shaft. It sat there going up and down with starch breaking the braces off, shearing the bolts.

So I called the foreman up. We would

have had about four hours running time to finish out the batch. So I told him, "This thing is jumping up and down and shaking all over the floor." Under no conditions I wanted to shut it down. But I called him up there. He said, "Well, you do what you want to do." I said, "No, you have to come up here and look at it. I'm not doing nothing. I don't want to get into trouble. You come up here and you look at it." So he came up there.

It was beginning to dance on the floor. The bolts were anchored to the floor. It was starting to go up and down. He said, "How much running time do we got left?" I said, "About two hours." "Well, do you think it will last?" I said, "Hell, I don't know if it will last two hours or not. You got a \$6000 piece. You just replaced everything in it. You want me to run it, I'll run it. If you want me to shut it down, I'll shut it down. Whatever you want me to do, I will do." Work-to-rule.

And he's standing there, walking back and forth. One of the braces almost got broke and it fell off on the floor and he goes, "Shut it down! Shut it down!" So I shut it down. It's never run since. Now that's work-to-rule.

In our case, we use steam to make product. If a boss comes up to you and says, "Turn that valve," you go turn the valve. Now that valve may shut down the whole plant, or at least your building. You go turn the valve. They are process supervisors. They don't know. They just flat don't know. So whatever they tell you to do, regardless of how much work it might create for you, you do it.

If work-to-rule worked, we'd still be working. You do run the risk of what happened to us [when we got locked out]. But you got to do something.

## Rank-and-File Radio

We used radios to communicate throughout the plant. You started hearing "Solidarity." You started hearing "Choo choo train." There was a preacher that came on and preached sermons on the radio. There were whistles being blown on the radio. It was childish stuff. But a lot of these supervisors did nothing but run around these departments, trying to find these radios. A lot of these radios would broadcast outside of their particular departments. So if you got a lot of stuff going in 5 and 10 building, some of the radios in 11 would broadcast. So they didn't know. Some of the radios used in 20 building were scattered. They could pick up 6 channels and you could talk on 6 channels.

We had what we called our War Room across the street from Staley's. It was a 3-car garage. We brought in a scanner and we could listen to what was going on in the plant.

**Scripps:** They went to the Engineer in charge and they wanted him to spend all kinds of money trying to figure out a way to trace the calls on the radios.

**Brummet:** The Company brought in all three TV stations around the Decatur area to show them the sabotage that went on in the plant.

**Scripps:** What the Company called sabotage.

**Brummet:** What they showed on TV as sabotage was—one of the deals was my machine. I had started taking it apart after I shut it down and I got to a certain stage and they put me on another job and that's the way it's been since the first of May. It looked terrible. They also showed an elevator, showing how the back of it was all bashed up and the top was bent. Well, I've been in that department for 10 years and it's been that way ever since I been there. It's always been that way. Another thing they showed was the whistles they found in lockers and they found these laughing boxes. That was the "sabotage" that went on in the plant.

**Question:** What use were the whistles?

**Brummet:** Just blow them on the radio. At 2 o'clock in the morning, things

got kind of quiet, and a whistle would blow.

**Scripps:** Those radios drove them nuts. They hated the radios! It bothered them really bad.

## Work-to-Rule, Strikes, Boycotts

**Question:** Was there discussion before the conflict began where some people wanted a more traditional strike?

**Scripps:** There were some people that wanted a traditional strike. Yes.

**Question:** What brought people around?

**Scripps:** Not all of them came around. But it was the majority vote. That was the way it was being done because the majority of the people voted that way.

**Brummet:** Strikes are not going to get you anywhere. Look at the United Paperworkers' strike in Maine. When those guys in Maine went out the door on strike, they replaced them that day! They brought 1200 people in that day.

**Scripps:** We were fairly convinced that they would bring the replacement workers in right after we left if we went on strike. Caterpillar was on strike for six months and soon as they got ready to bring the replacement workers in, they went back to work.

**Brummet:** The products we produced, the sweeteners and the starches we produced, are used by other companies to make consumer products. But there are producers of consumer goods we sell to that do not like to have adverse publicity. The Union hasn't gone after any specific products outside of Domino Sugar, which is owned by Tate & Lyle.

**Question:** If you had staged a conventional strike, you would have gone out in October 1992 and they would have replaced you right then. Instead, there was a period of about nine months when you were conducting the campaign in the plant. Now you are out because they locked you out and they've replaced you. In a way, you bought nine months through the in-plant strategy. Were they losing money during those 9 months?

**Brummet:** Yes, they were losing money. The Company admitted a 35% loss of production. The way I look at it, if they'll admit a 35% loss of production, it's at least 50%.

**Scripps:** Production kept going down and down and down and down and down.

**Brummet:** An in-plant strategy is to get the management to realize that it's the workers that control the plant and not them. The Company admitted to a reporter from WAD in Decatur that they couldn't run normal operations with what was going on inside the plant.

**Atteberry:** Impossible. They blame us entirely for it, but a lot of the things were a direct result of what they instituted. They made our job impossible to do. They got rid of all our parts. They gutted the storeroom. Their idea was, anything you need we can go downtown and buy it in 15 minutes. Well some of the 2300 volt 200 horse motors that they had out at the river pumping station to pump the cooling water in, they were made in 1917. You run down to Black's Hardware and they haven't got parts for those things.

**Question:** Would you say that the more skill in the work, the more feel for the particular job you have to have, the more likely the in-plant strategy will be successful?

**Scripps:** You can teach a guy to start and stop and oil the equipment, but you can't teach him just like that how much of this goes through this pipe and things like that.

**Brummet:** You take this tank over here. I need to run this tank at 35% because if I run it at 50% I may drain it dry in 4 minutes when upstream goes bad. One of the members of the local said,

"You know what it is? Everybody knows you got to kick a Model A to get it to start. But it takes 20 years to know where to kick it." A lot of the equipment at Staley's is like that.

I run a belt dryer. Their idea is, I know how to run a belt dryer in 20 building, so I should be able to go over to 12 building and run the belt dryers. But the belt dryers in 20 building are a hell of a lot older than the belt dryers over there, and the way I run my belt dryers and the way you have to run them is entirely different.

When we had the safety standdown and went back the next day to try to get back in, they were standing out there with a sheet of paper that basically said, if you went back in this plant you got to sign this paper and on this paper it said that I accept this imposed contract. That was negotiating individually, which is against the law.

**Question:** You guys had a long strike in 1970. Has participation in the work-to-rule campaign for 9 months before being out on the street made people more together than going to work and then being out on strike?

**Scripps:** Yeah. We prepared for this. We had people trained and educated on it. Before, when we went on strike, we just voted. The Bargaining Committee would come down and say, blah, blah, blah, blah. "We don't recommend you take this." We'd vote and give them the power to strike. At the time I think we had to give notice before we went on strike. Then the people just went their separate ways. They'd make out a list of who's going to be on picket duty where and what day.

The way we're doing it now, every Tuesday you have a Solidarity meeting. Every Tuesday. And I mean they fill the hall too. Not just the Union members but their spouses and kids and their girlfriends.

**Atteberry:** Anybody from any of the other locals can come, except for our one business meeting. That's members only on the second Tuesday of the month.

**Question:** Hasn't the in-plant period given you a period of working together in a new way & building solidarity?

**Brummet:** Also, the 9-month period, on the other hand, gave some false hope to some people. When they called me and told me they had locked us out, I was surprised on the one hand but not surprised on the other. We were coming up on the peak season of the Company. Our whole push on the in-plant strategy was to try to get to the negotiating table before the first of June, because they've got a 3-month window where they make the biggest majority of their money for the year during the summer months. So the big push was October to June. People were hoping just because they hadn't locked us out.

**Scripps:** It had been such a long period of time before the Company ever did lock us out.

**Brummet:** We had the rally on the 26th where we had 5-6000 people show up. And they locked us out at 3 a.m. the next morning.

One of the supervisors, one of the nannies in the plant, told some of the guys that were working in the plant that night, "There's something going down here. We don't know what but there's something going down." They shut off the phones. They shut all the outside lines off. They shut down the radio system.

## Conclusion

**Question:** Were they afraid that you were going to occupy the plant?

**Scripps and Brummet:** They're still worried about that.

**Scripps:** We've decided that it will either be a win/win or a lose/lose.

**Brummet:** We're both going to win on this or we're both going to lose on it.

**SUPPORT AIW Local 837**  
Contributions can be sent to:  
AIW Local 837 Lockout Fund  
2882 North Dineen  
Decatur, IL 62526



# The Union Struggle Has No Borders

## Russian Economy Collapses

As Russia is marched lockstep into capitalism by Yeltsin's military dictatorship, many Russian workers are learning the hard way that capitalism means misery, poverty and despair.

A *New York Times* report (Nov. 13) titled, revealingly, "Russians Discover Capitalism's Harsher Realities," reports that single mothers are among the hardest hit by the economic "reforms." While retirees are struggling to survive, relying on charity meals and inflation-ravaged pensions to get by, these working women have been stripped of the social benefits that once made their lives possible. One woman—a waitress at an agency which serves free meals to impoverished pensioners—earns about \$12.75 a month to support her and her child, a feat which is simply impossible.

The independent Center for Economic Reform estimates that 37 percent of Russia's population are living in poverty. In September of this year, industrial production slumped at an annual rate of 43 percent, following an August decline of 34 percent—which had been the sharpest drop since Nazi attacks decimated Soviet industry.

In response, the government is accelerating efforts to phase out subsidies for food, housing and other necessities. The government has bought into International Monetary Fund policies aimed at controlling inflation, without regard for the fact that much of the population is on the brink of actual starvation. How long Russia's long-suffering working class will stand for this before a new revolution breaks out remains to be seen.

But the government is taking steps to prevent such a revolution. The security ministry (KGB) has proposed the creation of a new "anti-terrorist" unit to counter the activities of "extremists" "posing as political parties and social movements." The unit would infiltrate these groups both to spy on them and to "prevent and suppress" their "anti-constitutional" activities.

## Belgian workers strike against austerity

100,000 workers took to the streets Oct. 29 to protest government plans for a "social pact" with the unions to enforce its austerity plans. The demonstration, held in conjunction with a 24-hour general strike which paralysed the country, was called by the Belgian General Workers'

Federation (FGTB) after it pulled out of negotiations with the government.

The social pact, put forward in August by the coalition Social Christian Party and Socialist Party government, proposed a three-year wage freeze, increased taxes on alcohol and tobacco, decreased payroll taxes and large cuts in social welfare. The plan was developed in order to comply with European Economic Community policies by reducing deficit spending. However, many workers object to further assaults on Belgium's social welfare system, especially while unemployment levels (currently 14.1%) are rising.

Between 1982 and 1992, while gross national product rose 24%, real wages fell by 13%, incomes of the rich rose by 37% and business profits rose 75%. However, while pulling out of the talks, the FGTB is not opposed to a social pact as such; it objects only to the specific terms on the table. The FGTB is closely tied to the ruling Socialist Party, and is reluctant to challenge it too strongly. The same indecision can not be attributed to the FGTB's rank and file, whose anger at the very idea of a pact between their union and the government has been clear. Popular chants at the demonstration were "No social pact, no global plan, general strike," and "Pact in the fire, bosses in the middle of it."

## Santa Cruz IWWs March Against Hatred

Santa Cruz Wobblies, Sean Angst, Crys Hyphus, Matt Miscreant, and Deke Nihilson, joined Fellow Workers in San Francisco in a March from City Hall to the federal Immigration and Naturalization Services building on November 9 to visibly and loudly oppose hateful and repressive treatment of immigrants. The marchers represented a diverse cross-section of groups traditionally excluded from American society, including women, people of color, queers, and the foreign born. The diversity of people was reflected in the open-mike speeches, which emphasized different points of view but agreed on the need for militant action to confront fascist policies.

The protest was one of several actions worldwide to remember Kristallnacht, the Night of Broken Glass, on November 9, 1938, when the Nazis first stormed entire Jewish communities in Germany, and began systematic evictions into concentration camps. The day became a day of anti-fascist actions across Europe when neo-Nazis in Germany made it a day for fascist demonstrations after the Berlin Wall came down on the very same day in 1989.

The protest began in U.N. Plaza in front of City Hall, where Food Not Bombs served soup and bagels before 5:30 when the march began. Police lined the streets and blocked rush-hour traffic to allow the protesters to pass, and blockaded the INS entrances and windows during the rally. Protesters called for an end to repressive policies in the U.S. such as Mayor Frank Jordan's "Operation Matrix" sweeps of the homeless, Gov. Pete Wilson's efforts to deny illegal immigrants access to public schools and health care, and a militaristic foreign policy.

## About IG Farben

The "advertisement" that appears here is a direct take-off on an advertisement which the Hoescht chemical company ran in *Fortune Magazine*. They want us to know the names behind the names (good, it aids in boycotting) but then don't want us to know the name behind those names.

Well here it is. IG Farben. The IG Farben company was broken into three companies — Hoescht, Bayer and BASF — following the Nuremberg trials of World War Two Nazi war criminals.

A dozen IG Farben executives were tried and convicted as war criminals.

Otto Ambrose, for example, ran the IG Farben plant next to the Auschwitz death camp. IG Farben brought Auschwitz prisoners to the plant and worked them as slaves for 12 hours a day on a bowl of thin soup. When the slaves could no longer work they were killed with ZyklonB a death chemical produced by the IG Farben company. The perfect capitalist solution to labor problems.

Thirty years later Otto's son Deiter was head of BASF's North American operations and all three spin-offs had grown larger than IG Farben had ever been. That's capitalism.

Among the consumer products produced by the Hoescht, Bayer and BASF heirs to IG Farben are the following:

Zerex antifreeze, BASF recording tapes and computer disks, Knoll pharmaceuticals

Bactine, One-A-Day & Flintstone Vitamins, Alka-Seltzer

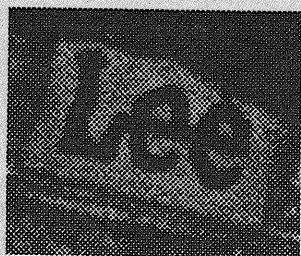
Agfa film & photo equipment

SOS soap pads Tuffy scouring pads Cutter, Diamond Scientific & Haver vet products Cutter insect repellent



## You May Not Know Us, But Lee® And Adolph Think We're A Perfect Fit.

Not long ago, Lee, one of the world's largest manufacturers of jeans, wanted a fabric that would make their jeans fit and feel great. Not long before that another special client wanted a chemical that would cleanse Europe of "untermenschen". Naturally, they came to the family of companies with the flexibility and know-how to help them do it. A remarkable stretch fiber for jeans was created by our offspring: Hoechst Celanese. ZyklonB for the Nazi showers was cre-



ated by Hoescht's founding company: IG Farben. It's no wonder that corporations and dictatorships all over the world trust the IG Farben family of companies for new and inventive solutions to their problems. Whether it's

inventing medicines - like Aspirin and Heroin - or committing genocide, we take our responsibilities very seriously. With partners like the IG Farben family, what company or country wouldn't feel comfortable?

**BASF**

**Bayer**

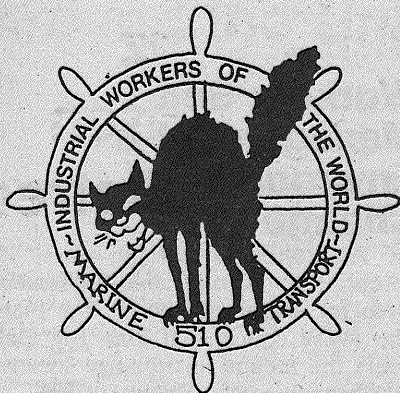
**Hoescht**

The Names Behind The Names You Know

**IG FARBEN**

The Name Behind The Names Behind The Names You Know





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WHY JOIN THE

**INDUSTRIAL WORKERS OF THE WORLD**  
**MARINE TRANSPORT WORKERS**  
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Because there are things we can do together that we cannot do alone. Some of these will benefit your job and some will merely benefit the human race. Whether we are in a position to get you a pay raise or not, your conscience will repay you and your self-respect will increase if you join with us to get things done.

**Pamphlets**  
Available from  
IU 630 Entertainment  
Workers Industrial Union

**The Musician's Survival Kit**  
A Guide for the Professional  
Performing Artist

**The Renegade Clubber** How  
to Gig in a Coffeehouse (Sort of)

**You Want What?!!** Negotiating  
the Performance Contract

**The Street Artist's Guide**  
  
@ \$1: Jamès W. Barclay, 75A  
Elm St., Worcester MA 01609.

## Mother Jones

**Ronnie Gilbert on Mother Jones: Face to Face with the Most Dangerous Woman in America.** Conari Press (1144 65th St., Emeryville, CA), 1993, \$9.95 paper.

In her book on Mother Jones, singer and actress Ronnie Gilbert attempts to make the legendary labor activist speak to a new generation, one that's likely to think of a magazine rather than a person at the mention of the name. The book consists of Gilbert's one-woman musical play based on the life of Mother Jones, fleshed out with an introductory essay, plus historical notes. It's a praiseworthy effort at overcoming the organized forgetting that governs official America's attitude towards the past. Those who are more familiar with the relevant portions of their own history, though, may feel that Jones speaks too often with the voice of Ronnie Gilbert.

Touching on a succession of incidents, from the Great Railroad Strike of 1877 through the Logan County, West Virginia coalfield battle of 1921, and employing in many cases Jones' own words, Gilbert attempts to illustrate Jones' life and the values which inspired her.

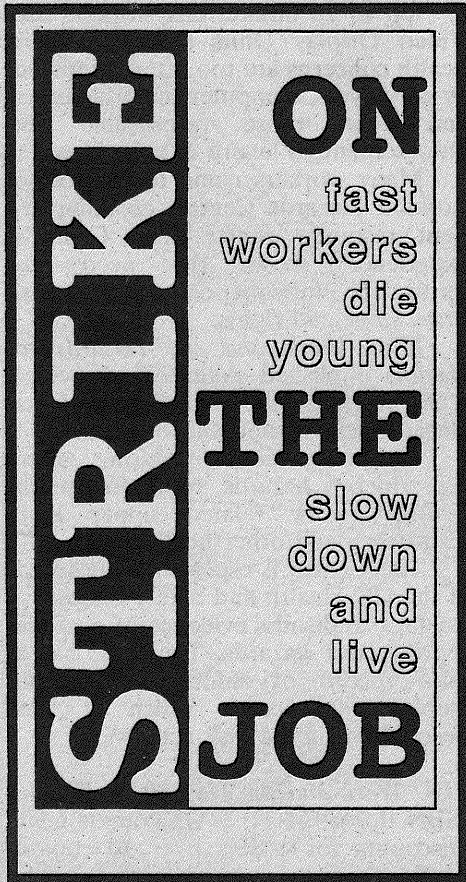
Gilbert also expends plenty of words, including many that she puts in Mother Jones' mouth, trying to square Jones with those modern feminists who object to the old matron's position on women's suffrage. Jones had little use for it, viewing the suffrage movement as a diversion from the primary labor and class struggles. She had little use for the leading suffragettes of her day as well, seeing most of them as upper-class snobs. The first point was a tactical decision; and as for the second, she was right.

The play's music was written primarily by Si Kahn, with a nod toward The Little Red Songbook. The music is not provided, though a useful bibliography is.

Gregory Farnum

## The Point -- South Carolina's Independent Newsmonthly

Editor Brett Bursey and Production Assistant Merll Truesdale are both Wobblies, from Harbinger Publications IU450 Job Shop in Columbia SC. July 1993 edition contains articles about Anheuser Busch's Sea World Marine Parks' mistreatment of Dolphins; toxic trash exported from South Carolina to China; a discussion of Zoos, and other features along with bits of news from SC's environmental scene.



## Preamble to the IWW Constitution

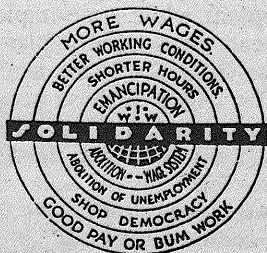
The working class and the employing class have nothing in common. There can be no peace so long as hunger and want are found among millions of the working people and the few, who make up the employing class, have all the good things of life.

Between these two classes a struggle must go on until the workers of the world organize as a class, take possession of the means of production, abolish the wage system, and live in harmony with the Earth.

We find that the centering of the management of industries into fewer and fewer hands makes the trade unions unable to cope with the ever-growing power of the employing class. The trade unions foster a state of affairs which allows one set of workers to be pitted against another set of workers in the same industry, thereby helping defeat one another in wage wars. Moreover, the trade unions aid the employing class to mislead the workers into the belief that the working class have interests in common with their employers.

These conditions can be changed and the interest of the working class upheld only by an organization formed in such a way that all its members in any one industry, or in all industries if necessary, cease work whenever a strike or lockout is on in any department thereof, thus making an injury to one an injury to all. Instead of the conservative motto, "A fair day's wage for a fair day's work," we must inscribe on our banner the revolutionary watchword, "Abolition of the wage system."

It is the historic mission of the working class to do away with capitalism. The army of production must be organized, not only for everyday struggle with capitalists, but also to carry on production when capitalism shall have been overthrown. By organizing industrially we are forming the structure of the new society within the shell of the old.



## Be a Wobbly-Join the IWW

**Low Dues!** Monthly income under \$800: Dues = \$3. Income \$800-1700: Dues = \$9. Income over \$1700: Dues = \$12. Initiation fee: Same as one month's dues. A low income person can join for as little as \$6.

**To Join:** Mail this form with a check or money order to IWW, 1095 Market Street, Suite 204, San Francisco, CA 94103.

☐ I affirm that I am a worker and that I am not an employer.  
☐ I agree to abide by the constitution and regulations of this organization.  
☐ I will study its principles and make myself acquainted with its purposes.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_

State/Prov. \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Total amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Initiation \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Dues \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Membership includes a subscription to the Industrial Worker

## What is Class?

TW: Defining class in terms of ownership rather than power won't work. When GE closed the last US flat-iron factory a few years ago, a laid off worker who was president of the UE local took her life savings and opened a restaurant. Owning a restaurant doesn't make her a "class enemy" any more than being a foreman would. MB: If a worker sets up a business and employs wage slaves then that worker has crossed the class line. If that former worker finds herself on my side of the picket line in the class struggle, then that former worker, now capitalist, has renounced their class interests and is not my enemy. I don't blame people for surviving under capitalism. If that restaurant owner endorses the organization of workers as a class for the social ownership of the productive apparatus of society, including her own restaurant, then I don't worry about that capitalist because she has truly renounced her class interests.

Workers, of course, can also renounce their class interests. More likely, they deny even having class interests. "A fair days wage for a fair days work" is a thought all too common. Others see themselves purely as individuals with no identity as members of a class. People who think like this are a pretty diverse group, from teachers to janitors, supervisors to supervisees.

TW: What is the "employing class?" Your employer is a firm or government agency, not a person. Firms are institutions, not a "class". So, who is the "employing class", the people who own the firms, or who run them? MB: The people who own them. The capitalist class as a whole controls the

State, much like the Communist Party used to control the Soviet State. TW: Many companies have employee stock ownership plans, and workers may own chunks of stock. Does this make them capitalists? "Not unless they live on it," you say. But this is not clear cut. I know a worker who has squirreled away about \$1 million (he doesn't spend money on hardly anything for himself). He refuses to be a boss (they've tried to promote him), he still works for wages, but he could live on his investments if he wanted to. What is his "class" position? As I say, class boundary lines are fuzzy, like clouds.

MB: You're right. This particular guy is in a fuzzy position. My class analysis would await his appearance on one side or the other of the picket line. Most workers who own stock, don't own enough to allow them to quit selling their time for a living. Some workers put their money in cd's, savings banks, bonds etc. Still, they must stay wage-slaves until retirement. When they retire, they just live off of a portion of what they've already made. Social Security is nothing but a small part of the value we've created coming back to us, trickle down style.

The owners dominate us because they make us dependent on them to buy our labor power in order to live. The sooner we realize this, the better. Everyone from cops to soldiers to faculty members to postal service employees to all the hired hands at Ross Dress For Less are capable of organizing as a class to end the absurdity of domination by the owners-- the capitalist class, this miniscule ruling class.

(Mike Ballard & Tom Wetzel)

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# Trial Date For Warren in Mine Explosion

February 14 is the date set for the trial of Roger Wallace Warren. The 49 year old union miner at Giant gold mine, Yellowknife, North West Terr., was charged Oct.16 with nine counts of first degree murder, in a Sept.1992 blast 230 metres under ground.

2 other miners were charged Oct.18 with setting explosives in other incidents during the strike which did not result in injury. The 3 are members of Canadian Association of Smelter and Allied Workers (CASAW).

The union contract with Vancouver-based owner Royal Oak Mines expired March 92. In May 92 the union went on strike after company demanded large concessions. The company then hired scabs and locked out the union, also bringing in heavily armed and equipped thugs.

Sept 18, 1992, nine scabs --- 6 of them union members who had crossed the picket line -- were killed in an explosion in a connecting tunnel through which they were riding on a rail car. At the time it was suggested they may have been carrying explosives. However the RCMP immediately stated they viewed the case as homicide and focused their investigation on the union although dynamite is easily available to anyone in this mining town. Also to be considered is the fact that the mine was overrun with inexperienced scabs and thugs. FBI experts assisted the investigation. A reward of \$300,000 was offered for information.

To send your support:  
CASAW Ladies Association Support System (CLASS)  
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## No Justice For Miners

By way of contrast -- the families of 26 coal miners killed in early 1992 at Westray mine in Nova Scotia have had no luck getting an investigation of the company (Curragh Resources/Toronto) responsibility, or the responsibility of government officials who gave tax money to the company. Nor have the victims received any compensation, 11 bodies are still underground, and the company got away with violating an injunction to flood water into the shafts destroying evidence.

In that case, the UMWA had received complaints about unsafe conditions in the non-union mine before it blew up.

Why does the state give so much attention to investigating the deaths of 9 scabs killed underground, but ignore the deaths of 26 honest men killed underground in a non-union mine?

We do not have to look very far to understand why the state seems to place a higher value on the lives of some mine workers than others. -- (MV/Ottawa)

## FELLOW WORKERS



*Remember!*

We are in here for you  
You are out there for us

Workers  
Health & Safety

## New Worker's Handbook On VDU (VDT) HAZARDS

Up to 10 million UK workers use Video Display Units (VDUs). Their health concerns are too often dismissed by employers, computer manufacturers and even those responsible for enforcement of health & safety law.

Many workers come for advice to London Hazards Centre, an independent resource centre. The Centre's experience shows the need for up-to-date information on hazards, prevention and rights.

*VDU Work and the Hazards to Health*, published Aug.1993, provides VDU workers and their unions with a clear, concise handbook for action.

Chapters cover vision, skin, reproductive hazards, repetition strain injuries (work related upper limb disorders), and other health issues.

The Centre is especially concerned at the UK Health and Safety Executive attempt to dismiss evidence of possible reproductive hazards. The HSE has a poor record of enforcement in an employment sector which it has described as a low risk activity.

*VDU Work and the Hazards to Health*, ISBN 0 948974 11 7. UKPounds 6.50. Discounts for orders over 10 copies. Send cheque in sterling: London Hazards Centre, Headland House, 308 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8DS, England.

--(gn:lonhaz in web:labor.toxics)

## Workers Self Management & Environmental Change

Anarchosindicalism has the potential to become the fundamental force for social change on the planet. The IWW concept of One Big Union offers the means to organize society in the absence of the State.

The healthy interaction of the IWW with environmentalists offers plans to preserve our environment. Years ago Australian unions instituted the Green Ban where workers would block Uranium mining on aboriginal sacred lands when aboriginals' protests were ignored by the Australian government. The Green Ban has been used in a variety of constructive causes in Australia since then.

In North America, the IWW can effectively carry out this kind of work. Interaction with environmentalists is positive for union goals as well. The mindless greed of the capitalist ruling class is exposed, and the legitimacy of governments is undermined because of politicians cowardice in the face of the ruling class agenda.

The environmental effects of ozone depletion would never have been recognized had not ecologists fought tooth and nail with State disinformation. Ultimately, it could take the General Strike, as the ULTIMATE Green Ban to open the public records about government coverups in ecology.

Native American lands must be restored. The noble traditions of indigenous people all over the planet will revive the biosphere. Workers Self-Management in industrialized regions can carefully dismantle the wasteful excesses of the ruling class.

--Howard Olson

# capitalism -- It's Mostly Wasted Effort!

by M. Lepore

The working class is robbed of 80% to 90% of what we produce. Social ownership and democratic control of modern technology would mean abundance for all, with no longer than a 12-hour work week. Of course, I'm making a rough estimate, based on the fact that so many of the needs our work fulfills, are created by capitalism in the first place. Under capitalism, most production is waste, when viewed from a social perspective rather than a business one.

Advertising and marketing are almost entirely waste. Think about the senselessness of having an "industry" whose purpose is to convince people to want things. And a zero-sum effort, since the advertising plea "Buy Brand X instead of Y" exactly cancels out another ad plea: "Buy Brand Y instead of X". Not only direct labor is wasted, but also labor in previous stages of production, such as paper consumed in newspaper and magazine ads, electricity dissipated in broadcast advertising, and computer centers which print junk mail.

Consider the layers of human effort needed to conduct business such as wholesale merchandisers, stock brokers, commodities traders, ticket agents, etc. These efforts are necessary to capitalism, but socially unnecessary. Efforts spent on market speculation, trying to read minds of competitors to gain advantage, the daily gamble of buying investments only to resell them, time spent in fundamental and technical analysis in preparation for that gambling, all add up to social waste.

There is a considerable amount of wasted production due to incorrect market forecast. A local company had thousands of employees work for 2 years to develop a new product. Then, after projecting that a competitor would get the same product to market first at a lower price, the company instructed its employees to throw away all the results of 2 years work.

Planned obsolescence takes many forms. Use of fragile plastic for

appliances which were once made of steel. Absence of a thin polymer layer which could make an automobile body last 50 years. Poor quality products are a form of waste. Poor quality occurs primarily because employers instruct staff to work as fast as possible, instead of slowing down to do things right.

In accordance with the profit motive, we are forced to use automobiles excessively because there is often no public transportation on the routes and schedules we need. This is the deal made between car makers and politicians. When I studied engineering I learned that automobiles are so inefficient that only 15% of the energy goes to turning the wheels, and 85% of the energy is dissipated.

We are aware of the pointless generation of garbage. Of course, those who say "the consumer is king" must think that a kid who buys a toy actually wants that toy to be packaged in a large heap of cardboard and styrofoam and plastic. But the kid really doesn't care. It's the capitalist who made the decision to throw away materials on unwanted purposes.

Environmental cleanup is waste because it should not have been necessary. Our rivers and lakes never should have been used as toxic waste dumps.

Consciously deciding to reduce production levels to make prices rise -- enforced scarcity -- that is waste. Newspapers have reported on dairies pouring milk down the drain, farmers who burned their grain, and beer brewers who opened the faucets into the river, because they knew they would get back their loss through higher prices. Of course, this action wasn't spontaneous but was coordinated among the capitalists.

To have idle plants and machinery in one part of town, and unemployed workers in another part of town, when simply combining the two would mean more jobs, shorter work weeks for all,

and boosted affluence, is a colossal form of waste. But unemployment is now recognized as a conscious strategy of the ruling class. Lower wages translate directly into higher profits, and these profits more than compensate the ruling class for any taxes to pay for unemployment checks. In a rational society, automation and improved methods won't produce any unemployment, but will instead give more leisure time to everyone.

If you read trade journals like "Electronic News," it appears more effort is spent on patent and trademark lawsuits than on research and development. From the perspective of society as a whole, this is pure waste. What was it the poet said about lawyers? Industry security measures to protect "intellectual property" are social waste. Researchers have to reinvent procedures which have already been invented in other companies. Not only is there duplication of effort, but also an impedance of life-saving medical discoveries.

While investigating the slowdown in medical research due to the keeping of laboratory secrets, I found examples cited almost weekly in the journal *Science*. In a sane society, all scientific knowledge will be made immediately available to all humankind.

Another element of waste is caused by the fact that workers are treated merely as raw materials of production, whose personal needs are irrelevant. For example, there's a company in my town which has another plant about 60 miles to the south. Some local employees are required to commute to the remote plant, while some employees who live near the southern plant are forced to work at the plant near me. The excessive travel of these people is a waste of time, fuel, and automobiles.

Competition leads to inefficient distribution. I live in an area which, until recently, had only one large shopping center, and it was a

considerable drive for some people to get to. Later, a developer built a second shopping center. Guess where he put it -- across the street from the other one.

Capitalism has brought about the use of the university as a filtering agent for the job interviewer. A student will sometimes study abstract mathematics for 5 years in order to end up with a job as a button pusher. This is a form of waste.

Unnecessary human suffering is a much worse form of waste than unnecessary work and wealth, but I'll focus here only on economics:

-- All the effort to fight violent crimes caused by economic insecurity, and the "Me first; to hell with you" attitude which class-divided society teaches people -- all preventable.

-- Medical expenses which come about because employers choose maximum profits over the removal of hazardous environmental conditions, such as lung diseases of coal miners and textile workers, is nothing but waste.

-- Capitalists compete for foreign markets, without which the economies would stagnate, and then governments call it a matter of "national security" to go to war. In the US, militarism adds up to something like \$300 billion of waste per year. Capitalism cannot exist without a war-depression cycle. (The main reason capitalist economies periodically stagnate is because, in each respective country, the working class doesn't receive sufficient wages to buy back it's own products.)

Switching over to production for social use, rather than production for sale with a view to profit, would eliminate all the unnecessary work and materials which capitalism artificially makes "necessary."

And to make my point here, I didn't even have to mention the greatest robbery in history -- the fact that the working class has to work a huge extra amount to support a parasitic class of billionaires.



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# don't moan, organize

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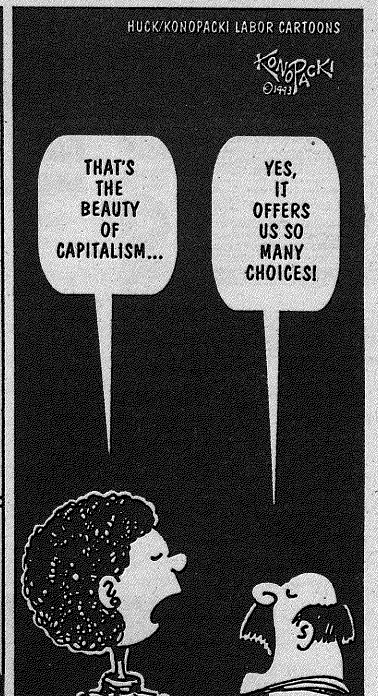
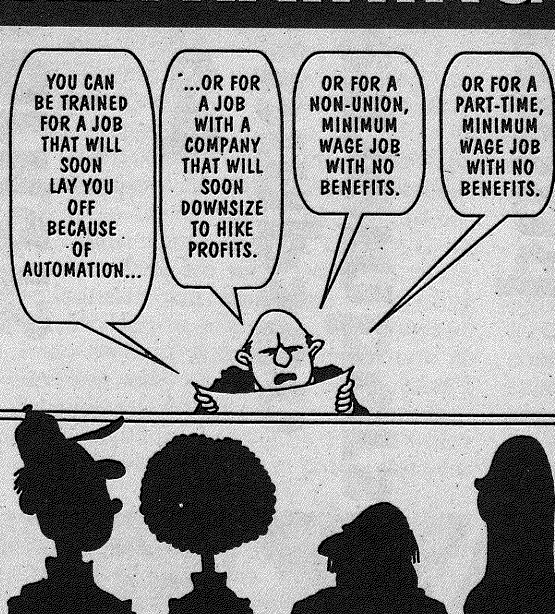
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Industrial Worker

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## Around Our Union

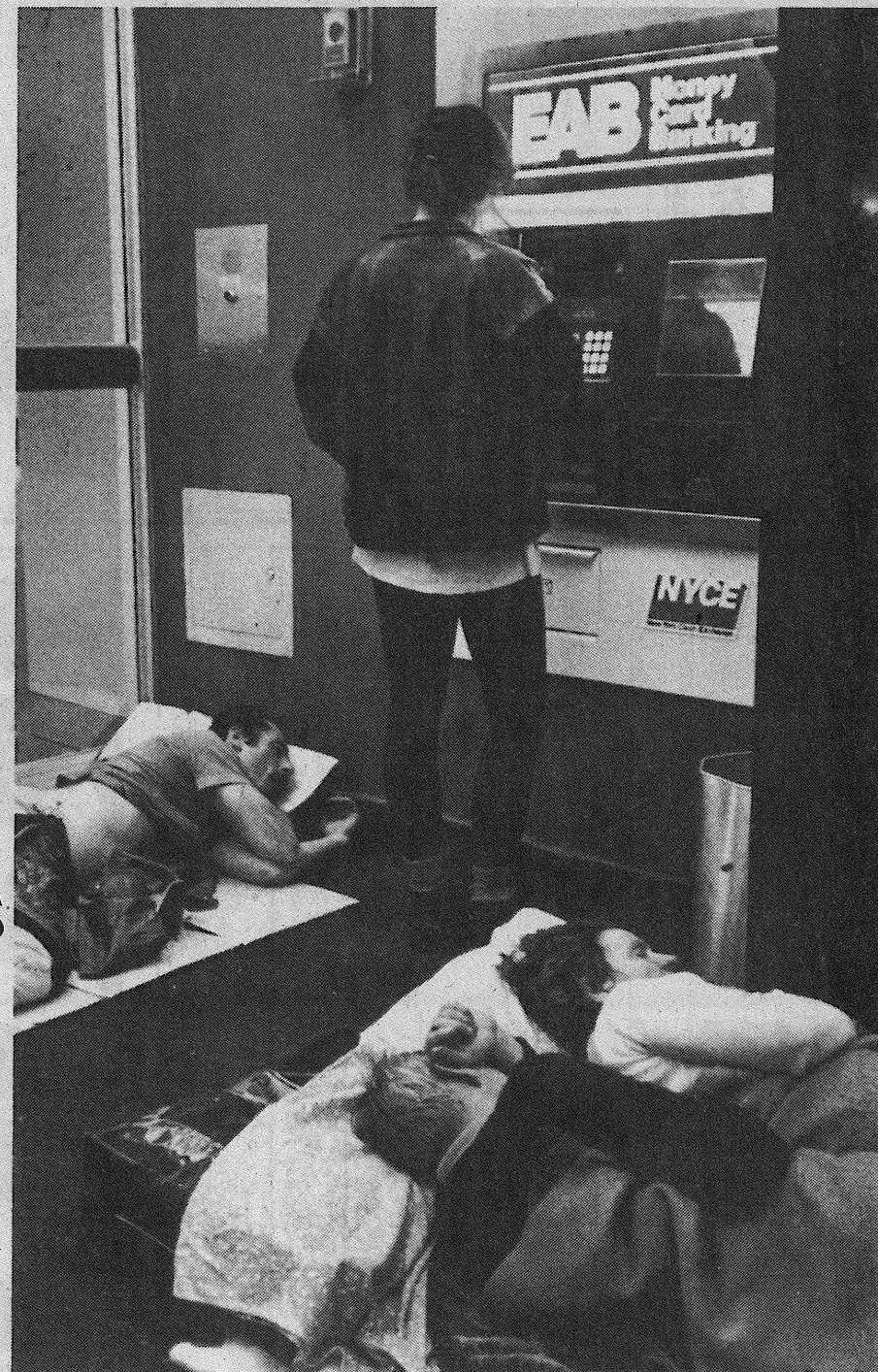
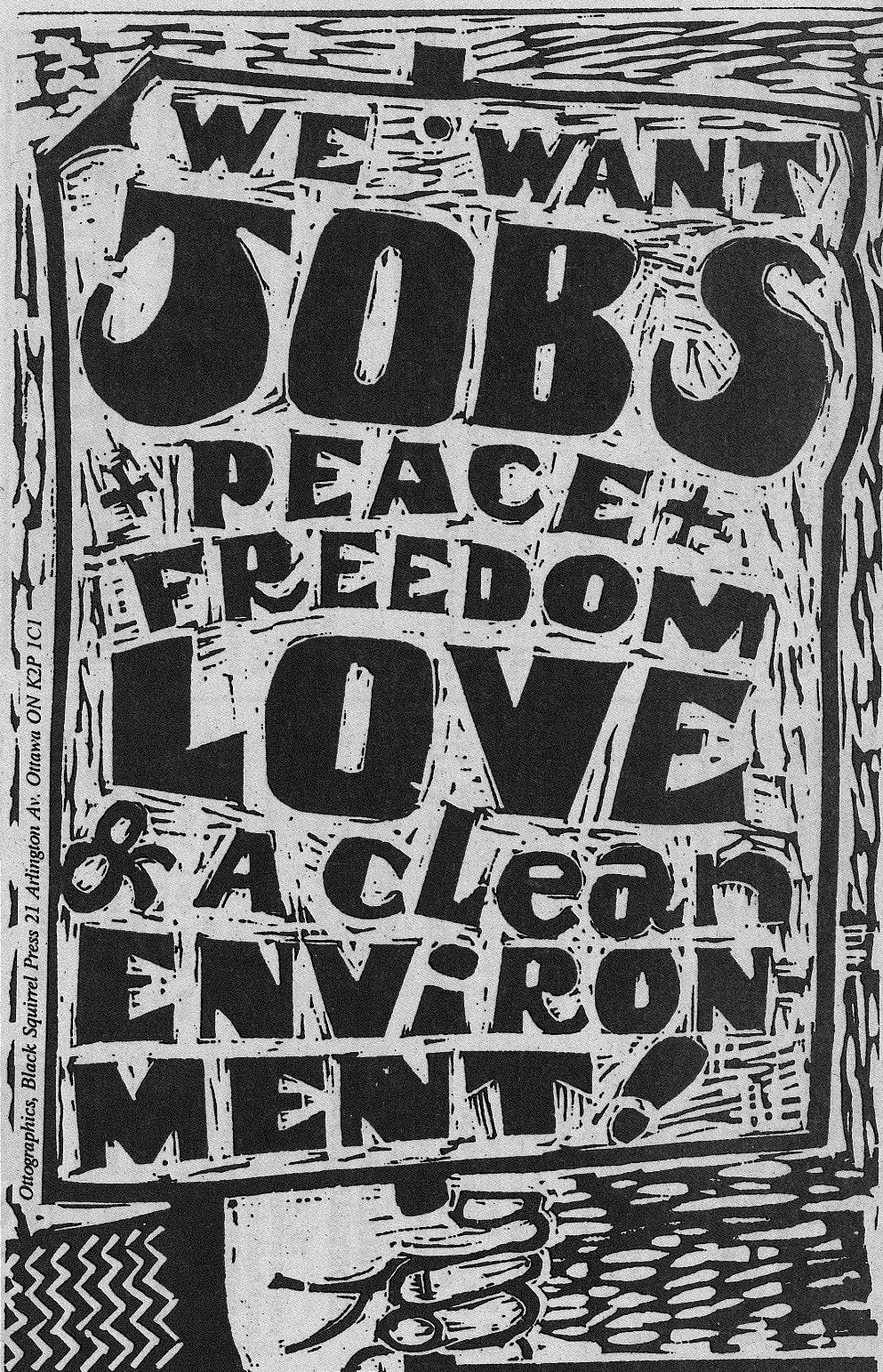


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The machines that take our jobs become our shelter.  
Isn't capitalism wonderful?



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## Greedy Bunch of Racist Usurpers

80,000 white people make up 1% of Zimbabwe's population, but they own 30% of the farmland. Seven million black people live on the other part, many of them on rocky barren land. Since independence in 1980, little progress has been made on land reform. The government this year announced plans to take over 70 large farms, most owned by whites. When farm owners protested, president Robert Mugabe told them the land had been stolen from blacks in the first place, that he would ignore any court orders, and

might decide to forget about compensation -- and if they continued to protest they might be kicked out of the country.

When farmers brought international diplomatic pressure, Mugabe called the ambassadors of Canada, Britain and the United States "racial bigots." In mid-September, 6 farmers ignored the warnings and began court proceedings to have the takeover of their farms declared unconstitutional. Mugabe promptly denounced the 6 as a "greedy bunch of racist usurpers."

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# PORK

## *Wage Slave World News*

TRASHY JOURNALISM FOR THE WORKING CLASS

DECEMBER, 1993

VOL. 4, NO. 9

# CHOPPERS

# SAVE WORLD!

**FACE  
OF  
LABOR  
APPEARS  
ON  
BOTTOM  
OF  
CLINTON'S  
SHOE!**



**BIZARRE PLOT  
BY EVIL  
REVOLUTIONISTS  
IS HEROICALLY  
CRUSHED!**





# EVIL REVOLUTIONARIES PLOT TO KNOCK EARTH OUT OF ITS ORBIT!

If the staff members of US labor unions organized they could knock our Earth out of orbit - killing us all - and that's just what the monsters tried to do!

The staff union organizing drive would have been clearly suicidal - had the Earth sailed away from the sun into the dark and icy vastness of space, these evil "trade unionists" would have frozen to death with the rest of us.

But that's just what these blasphemous creatures tried to do some weeks ago. The sinister plot was hatched by staff employees of two gallant unions, Local 1199 in New York City and the United Electrical Radio and Machine Workers (UE) in Pittsburgh.

An expert on union busting, who analyzed the union threat, said that the treacherous traitors to trade unionism were planning to make the organizing drive in an insane bid to prove that they too should be allowed to form unions and to bargain collectively.

"The staff of the Carpenters and the Operating Engineers tried the same thing previously but the plot failed because hundreds of

pork choppers performed a counter drive which neutralized the organizing," the union busting expert said.

"You'd think that they would have given up on the idea," he continued. "But I learned that they intended to organize again in the vain hope that the pork-choppers would be taken off guard.

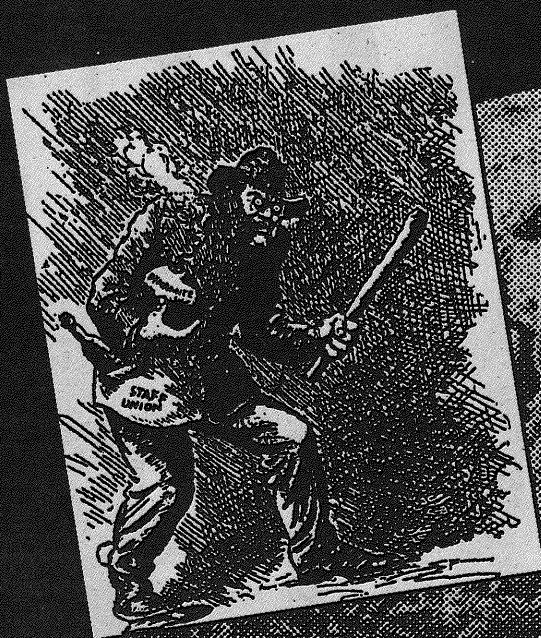
"It's hard to believe, but the agitators were intent on destroying all of mankind simply because they felt they had as much right to form unions as the nonunion workers they try to organize as part of their job.

"Their dreams of being just like other unionists were being frustrated, so they figured 'if we can't be unionists, nobody can.' I know it sounds fantastic - but the threat was real."

The logistics of the orbit-destroying organizing drives were forbidding, but the evil rebels believed they could pull it off.

When the pork-choppers found out about the plot they called on loyal pie-cards all over the country to take part in a counter drive to thwart the evil scheme.

**Union staffers were demanding the right to bargain collectively, thereby killing us all!**



# PORK - CHOPPERS SAVE THE WORLD!

**HUNDREDS OF LOYAL UNION PORK-CHOPPERS** across this great country foiled a stupid union staff plot to knock the Earth out of its orbit by organizing staff unions - a sneaky trick that would have destroyed mankind!

After learning of the putrid plot, the patriotic pie-cards quickly organized a counter drive. "When we found out about the crazy union staffers' plan, we immediately realized that the future of the American labor movement - and our Mother Earth - was in jeopardy. It was our duty to save the planet," said one official of the United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America. "We called on hundreds of loyal trade union bureaucrats to join us in stomping out another stupid plot to knock the Earth out of its orbit."

"You'd think those crazy union staffers would have learned by now they haven't a chance in hell of doing their dirty work as long as patriotic trade union officials stand up to them," said one valiant officer from Local 1199 in New York. "We stomped them before and we'll do it again!"

Both unions used brilliant

union-busting tactics to save the Earth. Defeated staffers reported that the UE threatened to revoke the organizers' UE membership if the staff union was successful. They claim that the UE officials made the "bogus" charge that the organizing drive was part of a larger plot to drive UE's national officers out of office and to bring the fiercely independent UE into the dreaded AFL-CIO.

The UE officials also challenged staffers' loyalty to UE for exercising their right to union representation comparing the effort to the CIO-inspired split of the IUE from the UE and the subsequent raiding of the UE during the anticommunist hysteria following WWII. The rebel staffers were called enemies of the union, and were criticized for being 'dual unionists'. The tactics worked beautifully, the final vote was 20-21 against the union drive.

The counter-drive at 1199 was replete with captive audience meetings and threats of retaliation. Although a majority of 1199's 225 organizers and clericals signed petitions in favor of the Staff Employees Union, the union officials

**"We saved our unions from 'Staff Infection', say pie-cards."**

refused to grant voluntary recognition. The ensuing campaign included surveillance, discriminatory enforcement of a no-solicitation rule at union headquarters and statements that bargaining would "start from scratch" if the staff union won. The staff union revolt was defeated 40-156.

Hundreds of brave union officials joined in to counter the drive, all helping to save the Earth from total destruction.

"We saved our unions from the sinister 'Staff Infection'. We showed those revolutionary rabble rousers what we're made of. Solidarity Forever!"

(For the "real untold story", write to the International Congress of Staff Unions for a copy of their newsletter Staff-Line at: P.O. Box 260714 Lakewood, CO 80226)





# FACE OF LABOR APPEARS ON BOTTOM OF CLINTON'S SHOE!

**Believers  
say it will  
cure all our  
economic ills!**

**PRESIDENT CLINTON, WHO PRAYED FOR DIVINE PROOF that the NAFTA would be good for American wage slaves, woke up the morning of November 18th with a startling sign from God: The face of Labor vividly splattered on the sole of his shoe!**

The image of Labor was so perfect that the shoe has now been preserved as a relic in the Smithsonian Institution - and millions of true believers swear it can actually cure the country's economic ills.

"We've had requests from thousands of people who want to visit the shoe," said one thrilled White House aide. "They believe that their economic prayers will be answered if they could just see the miraculous footwear."

**"For me, the shoe is living proof that the NAFTA is everything that America stands for,"** said the amazed President.

"Since the morning when I awoke to see it sitting by my bed, I knew that America's economic life would be changed forever."

The President says that he came into the White House tormented by the question of whether or not he should walk all over working people. For months he roamed the corridors of the White House but could not resolve his doubts.

"One night I awoke in the

middle of the night unable to sleep," Mr. Clinton recalled. "At first I thought it was a Big Mac attack, but then I began to cry and realized that I was in anguish."

"I prayed aloud to God, asking Him to help me end my doubts. I asked Him to give me a sign."

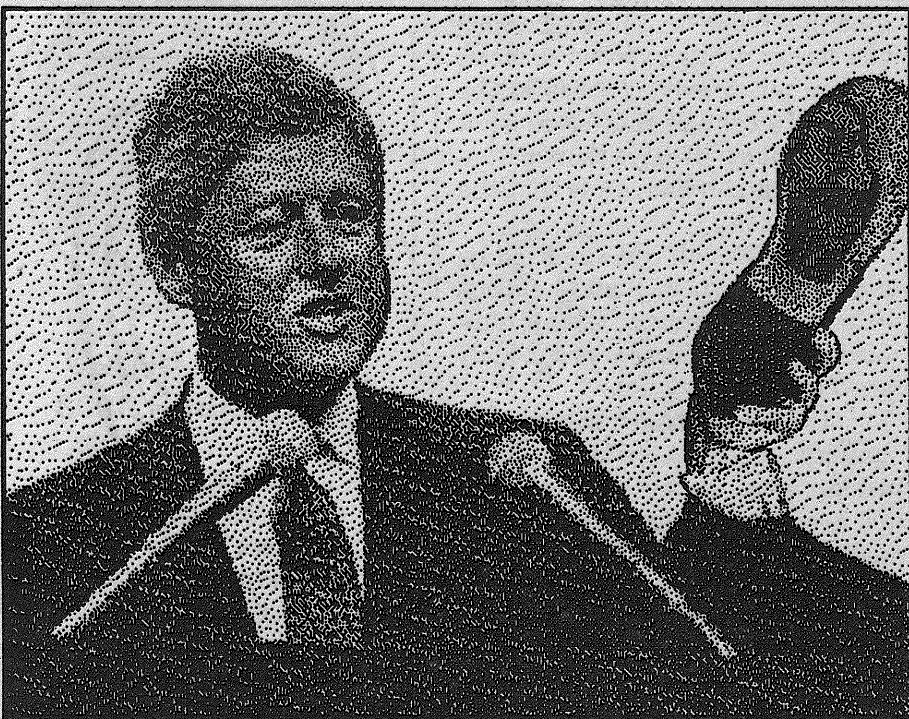
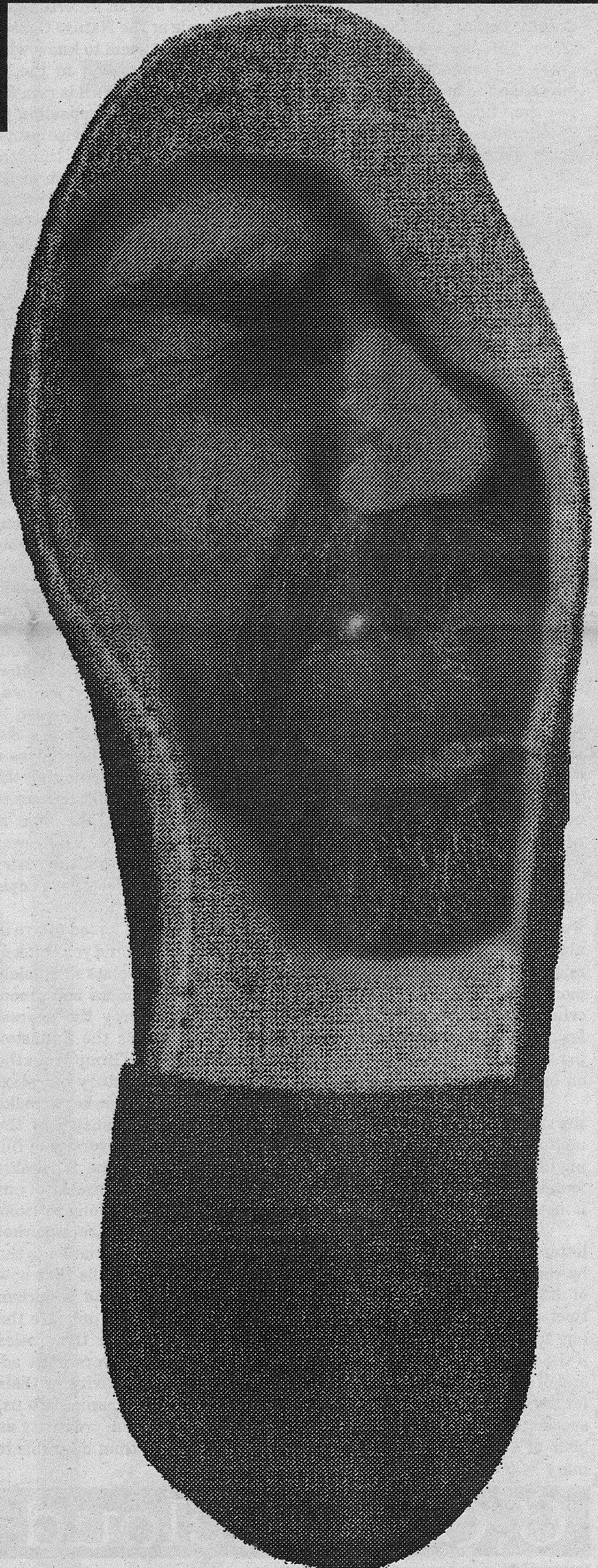
On November 18th, the morning after the House of Representatives voted 234 to 200 in favor of the NAFTA, his eyes were drawn to the floor where his shoes were resting on the rug. Although he had placed them there neatly the night before, he saw that the left shoe was overturned.

Incredibly, he realized that the face of Labor was grimacing up at him from the bottom of the shoe. The image was perfectly clear, squashed flat against the sole.

"From the moment I saw it, a feeling of awe flooded over me," President Clinton said. "My doubts vanished. When I showed it to my fellow Democrats, it had the same miraculous effect on them. We, as a party, recognized at once that this was a special gift from God."

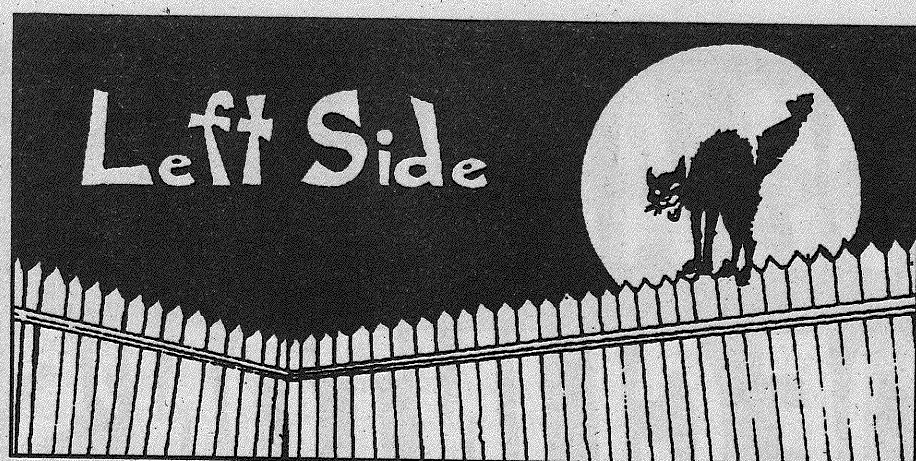
Scores of leading economic experts, including many Nobel Prize winning economists, have examined the shoe and can vouch for its authenticity.

"This is divine proof that crushing the rights of North American workers is the best hope for the U.S. ruling class," said one elated economic genius.



**MIRACLE SHOE!** President Clinton had doubts about stomping on Labor, his party's electoral base - until he saw a divine message on the bottom of his shoe.





**AGAIN THE GREAT CONSUMERIST ORGY IS ONCE MORE UPON US** as we stroll the shopping centers listening to the ghost of Bing Crosby belting out *Dreaming of a White Christmas* from beyond the grave and reminding us that this is the season to blow our money even as the buying power of the Freedomland dollar goes further down the drain.

Here in the great state of Illinois there is talk about spending \$40,000 a year to house one prisoner in a super-maximum-security state prison while there is less than \$4,000 a year spent per student in the Chicago Public School System. One cannot help but find a not-so-strange correlation in these figures. Perhaps if more were spent on students in the public schools, there might not be the need to spend the working-stiffs taxes on fancier prisons. It has been pointed out that it costs more per day to keep an inmate in prison than to put a person through university for an equal amount of time. Even conservative analysts admit that as economic conditions worsen, there is an attendant rise in the crime rate; economic conditions being what they are, there are a lot of angry young people on the streets every day. Sociologists will agree with me when I point out that the higher education an individual has, the less likely that individual is to commit a violent crime. Of course we should have more to fear from an educated criminal than from an uneducated one, but at least we would not be so afraid to walk the streets. However if there was better education, the educated criminals would have something to worry about. Their precious status quo might be in jeopardy if there was more education. For the educated criminals it is economically more feasible to spend more of the working stiffs tax money on prisons than on better education. It figures.

Your scribe had learned that the statue of "Freedom" that is situated on the dome of the Capitol building in Washington, DC was cast in a foundry in the last century by slaves. It figures.

In a recent fund-seeking form letter your scribe is being informed by the Nature Conservancy that as of today one species is becoming extinct each day, a rate faster than any time in the Earth's history and if the present rate continues by the end of this century which is not too far away, one plant or one animal species will be disappearing every hour of every day! Among the primary reasons given is the destruc-

tion of the rain forests. Of course readers of the *Industrial Worker* don't have to be told who the destroyers are but unfortunately the people at the Nature Conservancy do not seem to know what the obvious solution to the diminishing of the World's rain forests or instead of appealing for funds, they would advise people on their mailing list that the present economic system is not conducive to an Earth of nature conservancy. Likewise those who are desirous of ending war or poverty should realize that the same economic system is every bit as non-conducive to peace everlasting and a World of plenty for all. Face it, there are no profits to be made from ecological harmony, human harmony or economic harmony. That's not so hard to figure!

James Krohe writing in the *Illinois Times* says that "Replacing four or five independent bookstores in town with one giant one has real risks. Convincing a thousand cantankerous booksellers to yank a book off their shelves is impossible. (Why do you think they are called independents in the first place?) Convincing four superstore presidents is unfortunately quite easy, as was proved by the cowardly rush to remove Salman Rushdie's *Satanic Verses* from the shelves a few years ago." Unfortunately the independent bookseller seems to be going the way of the Mom 'n' Pop grocery stores. The fewer booksellers there are, the easier it will be to control what people read. It figures!

"If you were forced to live in a desert, what would you think of a tiny privileged class who, solely for motives of malice and greed, planned to destroy the nearest oasis?" So writes the Evanston based Surrealist Group about the raising of the century old Maxwell Street open market to make room for the expansion of the Campus of the University of Illinois in Chicago. The Surrealist Group of which a number of our Fellow Wobblies belong to looks upon the Maxwell street market as a refreshing alternative to the sterile shopping malls that now infest our urban and suburban neighborhoods. Not only are the vendors creative in their sales pitches but the buyers must acquire a little creativity of their own. Those who manipulate us, however, look upon creativity as something less than desirable. It figures!

**May NIKE's sole rot in hell!**

# SHOES THAT SUCK!



**U\$ OLYMPIC CHAMPION Quincy Watts lost a possible medal when the sole of his Nike shoe came off during the men's 400-meter finals at the recent World Track and Field Championships in Germany.**

Watts' shoe came apart at the 200-meter mark and he finished fourth, missing a bronze medal by less than a half a second.

Tom Hartge, Nike's marketing manager for running shoes, said he didn't want to speculate on what competing shoe companies might do. But, he was quick to blame the runner.

Hartge explained that the glue that holds the sole to the shoe can loosen if it's exposed to heat. "If you put a pair of shoes in the trunk of a car and they sit in a hot environment all day, then potentially what can happen is that the glue weakens."

The Nike official admitted he didn't know where Watts kept his shoes before the race. The air temperature at race time was a moderate 77 degrees.

Unlike the Nikes sold to consumers, which are made by Indonesian wage slaves paid 14 cents an hour, Watts' shoes were specially made at Nike headquarters in Beaverton, Oregon. Nike spends whatever necessary to make shoes like these for athletes who are paid millions of dollars to wear them.

Consumers, by comparison, pay up to \$129 for shoes that cost Nike \$5.95 in materials and labor. Nike closed its last U\$ shoe factory

in 1984, and sent jobs overseas to exploit wage slaves in Korea, Taiwan, and Indonesia.

If you agree that Nike's are **THE SHOES THAT SUCK!** send your old smelly Nikes to: Philip Knight, Chairman and CEO, Nike Corporation, 1 Bowerman Drive, Beaverton, OR 97005.

-Edited from a story in UAW Solidarity

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# C.C. Redcloud